AFTER 30 YEARS, AMERICA'S CONTINUING HARVEST OF SHAME

HEARING

BEFORE THE

SELECT COMMITTEE ON AGING
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED FIRST CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

APRIL 24, 1990

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Richard A. Veloz, M.P.H., J.D., *Staff Director*
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AFTER 30 YEARS, AMERICA'S CONTINUING HARVEST OF SHAME

TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 1990

U.S. House of Representatives,
Select Committee on Aging,
Washington, DC.

The committee met, pursuant to call, at 10:05 a.m., in room 345, Cannon House Office Building, Hon. Edward R. Roybal (chairman of the committee) presiding.

Members present: Representatives Roybal, Hughes, Stallings, Jontz, Pallone, Schneider, and James.

Staff present: Richard Veloz, Staff Director; Valerie Batza, Executive Assistant to Staff Director; Mary Hanlon, Professional Staff; Carolyn Griffith, Staff Assistant.

OPENING STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN EDWARD R. ROYBAL

The Chairman. The committee will come to order.

The purpose of today's hearing is to examine the living conditions of the elderly farmworker. I have called this hearing today after 30 years when we first saw a documentary by Edward R. Murrow who called it "The Harvest Of Shame."

Unfortunately, little has changed in the past 30 years, as we will hear today from several people who are experts in the field. We will again hear that the farmworker still lives in the same deplorable conditions. Today, we will hear from four noted experts who also provide assistance in various areas essential to farmworkers. Three of the witnesses are past farmworkers themselves and can speak directly to the experience as well as on behalf of those who still work in the fields. These witnesses have been called before the Select Committee on Aging to share with us information on housing, on services, on the health care, and on the labor standards and other data on farm workers.

I requested the presence of the Secretary of Agriculture to testify before the committee to discuss agriculture data on farm workers, especially the data that they themselves have conducted. Unfortunately, the Secretary declined the invitation.

In planning for this hearing, a number of shocking details were revealed. The most glaring problem is the lack of Federal accountability for farmworkers. We do not know, for example, how many people make their primary income in employment in the farm as hired labor. We do not know who they are, where they are, or, how they live. It is my hope that today we can begin to make plans for improving, first of all, this lack of data.

There are no standards or standard Federal definitions for migrant and seasonal farmworkers. Generally, the term refers to people whose main source of income depends on hand labor, farm work which either takes them away from their home or depends on seasonal crops.

Only a short 7 years ago, a Federal court found persons in North Carolina guilty of enslaving a farmworker. A man who was indebted to the boss, a farmer, was forced to work to pay off his debt and subsequently died while working in the field. However, no penalties for slavery were levied against the accused. Until 1983, North Carolina had no laws prohibiting slavery. Even now, there are no penalties imposed on someone charged with slavery in that State.

Across the board, farmworkers seem to be treated as second class citizens. Different labor standards, including child labor, exemption from employee taxes, and lower Federal housing standards are allowed for employed farm labor distinct from standards for all other citizens. Even our Medicaid system does not account for this necessary movement across the country. State eligibility requirements prevent farm workers from having full medical coverage when they go from state to state every season.

The Aging Committee is examining the broad problems facing farmworkers because it is estimated that farmworkers have a life expectancy of only 50 years, which means that once that person reaches the age of 40 he 9she) is already old in the farm working community. After years of stoop labor, exposure to pesticides, lack of adequate drinking water and toilet facilities, the farmworkers are often very frail by the time they reach the age of 40 or 45 and have severe disabilities sometimes by their mid-thirties.

I look forward to the recommendations that I hope will be made by the witnesses today. But before I call on the witnesses, I would like to call on my colleague, Mr. James.

STATEMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE CRAIG T. JAMES

Mr. James. Thank you very much.

On behalf of my constituency, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the witnesses for their enlightened testimony to follow. Because of their commitment to correcting these problems concerning the elderly farmworkers and others, we now may begin to assess and find perhaps some solutions to the problems.

Thank you so much.

The Chairman. Thank you, Mr. James.

Ladies and gentlemen, today's hearing, as you know, is called "After 30 Years, America's Continuing Harvest Of Shame." I will call on 4 experts that will give us testimony regarding the problems and the conditions of farmworkers throughout the country. We will focus on the elderly farmworker. But as we look at the elderly farmworker, we cannot ignore the fact that the farmworker in general is not adequately housed, works under deplorable conditions, and that a great deal has to be done to make life better for all farmworkers, regardless of age.

First of all, I would like to welcome Mr. John Brown, who is executive director of Neighbors Organized for Adequate Housing in Belle Glade, Florida. Mr. Brown is an expert on housing. He, him-self, manages and provides housing for people who work in the field.

He will be followed by Mr. Dennis Penzell, who is the medical director of the Ruskin Migrant and Community Health Clinic, and also Mr. George Ortiz from the California Human Development Corporation; he is from Santa Rose, California; and Mr. Amancio Chapa, who is executive director of an organization called Amigos del Valle, Incorporated, from Mission, Texas.

First of all, Mr. Brown, I would like to have you proceed in any manner that you may desire.

STATEMENTS OF JOHN BROWN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NEIGHBORS ORGANIZED FOR ADEQUATE HOUSING, BELLE GLADE, FLORIDA; DENNIS PENZELL, M.D., MEDICAL DIRECTOR, RUSKIN MIGRANT AND COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC, RUSKIN, FLORIDA; GEORGE ORTIZ, CALIFORNIA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA; AND AMANCIO CHAPA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AMIGOS DEL VALLE, INC., MISSION, TEXAS

STATEMENT OF JOHN BROWN

Mr. BROWN. Thank you, sir.

Honorable Roybal and committee, it is indeed a pleasure to have this opportunity to talk to you today about the plight of the elderly farmworkers. When it comes to the Harvest of Shame, the Harvest of Shame is a direct result of a documentary that was filmed in my home town, the city of Belle Glade. When I talk about farmworkers, I believe I speak as an expert, having spent most of my adult life as a member of a migrant family.

I believe today that the elderly farmworkers are the forgotten people of the United States. I would like to coin a phrase that comes from an old B.B. King tune, and it states that, "Nobody wants you but your mother, and she may be jiving too."

Housing for farmworkers, and especially elderly farmworkers, is becoming as extinct as the dinosaur, I have noticed. If we cannot set a policy to help those that are in the twilight of their lives, then this great country of ours will have failed in its mission. Farm workers, as I know so well, start working in the fields, some as early as 3 and 5 years old, and continue to work some 40 to 50 years later. Working in inclement weather, inhumane conditions, back-breaking, stoop working brings about illness and arthritic conditions at a very early age, sometimes as early as age 45. My mom and dad passed on to their great reward when I was at the ages of 13 and 16. I believe that this can be directly attributed to the long hours of work in the fields.

I have been asked today to talk about the lack of housing, but I think the problem is even greater than housing. Health care is in a critical condition; income is at an all time low. If we are to help today, we must establish policies that will provide health care, housing, income maintenance as a policy and not by accident.

In my years of traveling as a migrant farmworker from Florida to New York, I saw workers being transported on the back of trucks and buses not fit for man or beast. Farm workers are residing today in housing that is deplorable. The preacher Jim Baker and the farmer-owner of the Oakland Athletics baseball team provided for their animals better than we are providing for the elderly farmworkers.

Nearly 40 years ago, the United States Congress adopted a national housing policy with the goals of a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family. Progress towards achieving this goal has been very limited and uneven. It has been limited because, despite public action to support the private housing market, new housing production and conservation of the national housing stock has failed to keep pace with the growing demand. It has been uneven because most of the gains which have been made have tended to benefit middle and upper income groups. The shortage of adequate and affordable housing for low-income families has continued to expand at a rate which makes the shortage one of the Nation's most severe housing problems today.

There are many facets to the problem of housing low-income families. Persons with low income are limited in their ability to compete for existing housing units or to generate new housing at a price they can afford. As a consequence, low-income families are forced to live in a small proportion of the housing stock which commands a low market rent because of its age or physical condition; it is deplorable. Generally, inexpensive housing is made available to the poor only after factors such as location, degree of deterioration, or lack of neighborhood amenities have made it undesirable for people of higher incomes.

Historically, low-income groups, and particularly minorities and farmworkers, have been confined by social and economic discrimination to the least desirable neighborhoods. Where persons are powerless to exert economic choices, certain housing may be constructed and maintained at the lowest standards set by the owner and encourage apathy on the part of the neglect and filth characteristic of slums and carry the constant message to the people forced to live there that the neighbors, the property owners, and the city at large are not concerned.

The following attachment describes the efforts of NOAH, Inc., to disrupt the cycle of poverty and substandard housing—and that attachment I have provided for you—in Belle Glade, Florida. We, NOAH, Inc., in the last 4 years have been fortunate enough to provide over 208 units of new multi-family housing, housing over 90 farmworkers. We have dedicated ourselves to this task, and we are extremely dedicated to providing housing at all costs. NOAH's record illustrates the importance of the comprehensive efforts needed to revitalize our urban communities. In the last 4 years, we have been successful, but the road still has a long way to go.

The story of NOAH is a continuing one at this writing as well as the story of the farmworker. The organization is more than 4 years old and has, to its credit, a successful record of fund raising and consciousness raising, as well as house raising. In the words of a recent Miami Herald editorial, "For many years, the lack of adequate housing in the Glades has been viewed as an intractable problem. Today, through the efforts of many people, it is still seen as a serious problem but one that is amenable to solution with a concerted, consistent, and prolonged effort."

I thank you, Congressman and committee, for this opportunity to speak to you about what I consider to be the forgotten American. Some 30 years ago, as I stated, the "Harvest of Shame" was filmed in Belle Glade, and we still have pretty much the same conditions not only in Belle Glade but over the entire United States.

Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Brown follows:]

TESTIMONY

BY

MR. JOHN BROWN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NEIGHBORS ORGANIZED FOR ADEQUATE HOUSING
BELLE GLADE, FLORIDA

BEFORE THE

SELECT COMMITTEE ON AGING

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

APRIL 24, 1990

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John Brown
Executive Director

April 13, 1990

Honorable Chairman Roybal and Committee
US. House of Representatives
Select Committee on Aging
Washington, D.C.

Honorable Roybal and Committee:

It is indeed a pleasure to have this opportunity to speak to you regarding the plight of the elderly farmworkers. I believe today, that I speak as an authority, having spent the better part of my life as a member of a farmworker family. Today I believe that the elderly farmworker is the forgotten man or woman in today's society. When I think of the elderly farmworker I am reminded of an old B.B. King tune which states and I quote "Nobody Want's You But Your Momma And She May Be Jivin' Too."

Housing for farmworkers and especially elderly farmworkers are becoming extinct as the dinosaur, I have noticed. If we cannot set a policy to help those that are in the twilight of their lives then this great country of ours has failed in its mission. Farmworkers as I know so well, start working in the fields some as early as three years old and continue to do so some as many as forty to fifty years later. Because of the inclement weather, the inhumane conditions, backbreaking, stooping, illness and arthritic conditions sets in at a very early stage of life as early as 45.

My mom and dad passed on to their great rewards when I was at the age of 13 and 16. I believe this can be directly attributed to the long hours of work. I have been asked today to talk about the lack of housing but I think the problem is even greater than housing, health care is in critical condition, income is at an all time low. If we are to help today, we must establish policies that will provide health care, housing, income maintenance as a policy and not by accident. In my years of travelling as a migrant from Florida to New York, I saw workers being transported on the back of trucks and buses not fit for man or beast. Farmworkers are residing today in houses that are deplorable. The preacher Jim Baker and the former owner of the Oakland Athletic Baseball team provided for their animals better than we are providing for our elderly farmworkers.

Nearly forty years ago the United States Congress adopted a national housing policy with the goal of a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family. Progress towards achieving this goal has been both limited and uneven. It has been limited because despite public action to support the private housing market, new housing production and conservation of the national housing stock have failed to keep pace with growing demand. It has been uneven because most of the gains which have been make have tended to benefit middle and upper income groups. The shortage of adequate affordable housing for low-income families has continued to expand at a rate which makes the shortage one of the nation's most severe housing problems today.

There are many facets to the problem of housing low income families. Persons with low income are limited in their ability to compete for existing housing units or to generate new housing at prices they can afford. As a consequence, low-income families are forced to live in a small proportion of the housing stock which commands a low market rent because of it's age or physical condition. Generally, inexpensive housing is made available to the poor only after factors such as location, degree of deterioration, or lack of neighborhood amenities have made it undesirable for higher income groups.

Historically, low income groups and particularly minorities have been confined by social and economic discrimination to the least desirable neighborhoods. Where persons are powerless to exert economic choices, certain housing may be constructed and maintained at the lowest standards set by the owner encourage apathy on the part of the neglect and filth characteristic of slums carry the constant message to the people forced to live there that... the neighbor, the property owners, and the city at large are not concerned."

The following attachment describes the efforts on NOAH, Inc. to disrupt the cycle of poverty and substandard housing in Belle Glade, Florida. NOAH, Inc. (Neighbors Organized for Adequate Housing) intends to foster pride and responsibility in the tenants of low income housing in conjunction with improving the housing stock. The work of the group recognizes the interrelationship of people, buildings and neighborhood stability. NOAH's records illustrates the importance of the comprehensive effort needed to revitalize our urban communities. In the last four years, NOAH has completed 208 low- to moderate income units; 20% are set aside for the elderly and nearly 90% are occupied by farmworkers in general.

The story of NOAH is a continuing one. At this writing, the organization is more than two years old and has to its credit a successful record of fund-raising and consciousness raising as well as housing raising. In the words of a recent Miami Herald editorial.

> "for many years the lack of adequate housing in the Glades has been viewed as an intractable problem. Today, through the efforts of many people, it is still seen as a serious problem but as one amenable to solute with a concerted, consistent, and prolonged effort."

NOAH has inspired hope where there was apathy; it has backed that inspiration with hard data and hard work; it has made a mighty beginning.

Sincerely,

John B. Brown

John B. Brown, Executive Director
NOAH Development Corporation

NOAH

BACKGROUND

NOAH, Inc. was established in March, 1984 as Neighbors Organized for Adequate Housing by a small group of concerned Glades residents, NOAH's purpose include:

- improving housing in the Glades area of Palm Beach County;
- empowering disadvantaged individuals towards self-help and self-sufficiency; and
- building bridges among the diverse racial, ethic and economic groups in the community.

The organization's initial housing project began modestly in the summer of 1984 in partnership with the First Baptist Church of Belle Glade. Local religious leaders offered to contribute an outmoded church building if the structure could be relocated by NOAH. By combining public funds with private contributions, the newly established organization moved, rehabilitated and converted the church structure into a habitable duplex by January, 1985.

Encouraged by this success, NOAH relocated a second duplex in the following summer and early fall. Subsequently, NOAH has remained a strong advocate of safe, decent and affordable housing in rural Palm Beach County. Its broad efforts and the Glades communities needs, particularly ones of shelter, are regular chronicled in the Miami Herald. NOAH also continues to build bridges between diverse constituencies. From its early bringing together of 50 community leaders in January, 1985 to share community visions and strategies to its ongoing annual sponsorship of Heritage Day — a celebration of the Jamaican, Mexican, Haitian, Cuban, Nicaraguan, Salvadorean, African American, Native American and Anglo ethnic backgrounds which make the Belle Glade community unique in rural America — NOAH remains one unity which struggles to overcome old prejudices through new understanding.

NOAH Development Corporation (NDC)

The NOAH Development Corporation was established in June, 1985 as a much-needed housing development arm of NOAH. Its was established to provide major housing rehabilitation and new construction as a single-purpose entity. NDC is governed by an independent, broad-based nine person board of directors an annually undergoes an independent certified public audit.

While the parent corporation NOAH continues to pursue its advocacy, constituency-building and social service interests, NOAH Development Corporation was incorporated to be the housing production vehicle. Experienced, professional housing development staff were hired and substantial funding solicited. The Palm Beach County Department of Housing and Community Developement has provided the primary source of operating revenue in NDC's early growth stages. Increasingly, the corporation is building earned income revenues through its management of completed properties.

NOAH Development Corporation's initial four years have been very successful. NDC has completed 208 units in Years 1 - 4 and 109 units are funded and scheduled for completion in 1990. Summaries of NDC projects are provided below:

PROJECTS COMPLETED

PROJECT TITLE:	**SOUTH BAY VILLAS NO. OF UNITS 64**
TOTAL COST:	$ 2.4 MILLION
PERMANENT FNG:	$1.0 MILLION CNA INSURANCE COMPANY 30-YEAR; 9.5% $ .7 MILLION PB COUNTY DHCD LOAN $ .7 MILLION NOAH EQUITY INVESTMENT RESTRICTED GRANT
MARKET RENTS:	$ 235 PER MO. 1 - BEDROOM UNIT $ 308 PER MO. 2 - BEDROOM UNIT $ 350 PER MO. 3 - BEDROOM UNIT
OCCUPANCY:	LOW- AND MODERATE- INCOME HOUSEHOLDS LESS THAN 1% VACANCY 7 - DAY AVERAGE RENT-UP PERIOD UPON OCCUPANCY

PROJECT TITLE:	**COVENANT VILLAS NO. OF UNITS 144**
TOTAL COST:	$ 5.4 MILLION
PERMANENT FNG:	$ 2.7 MILLION CNA INSURANCE COMPANY 30-YEAR; 9.5% $ 2.7 MILLION PB COUNTY DHCD LOAN $ 2.7 MILLION NOAH EQUITY INVESTMENT RESTRICTED GRANT
MARKET RENTS:	$ 252 PER MO. 1 - BEDROOM UNIT $ 333 PER MO. 2 - BEDROOM UNIT $ 365 PER MO. 3 - BEDROOM UNIT
OCCUPANCY:	LOW- AND MODERATE- INCOME HOUSEHOLDS LESS THAN 1% VACANCY; 7 - DAY AVERAGE RENT-UP PERIOD UPON VACANCY

FUNDED PROJECTS TO BE CONSTRUCTED

PROJECT TITLE: **AMARILLIS GARDENS NO. OF UNITS: 144**

ESTIMATE COST: $ 1.8 MILLION

PERMANENT FNG: $ 1.8 MILLION FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION 33 YEAR;
1.0% (FINANCING BY FmHA WILL INCLUDE LOAN AND
GRANT FUND; RATIO HAS NOT BEEN DETERMINED.)

PROPOSED RENT: $ 210 PER MO. 2 - BEDROOM UNIT
$ 265 PER MO. 3 - BEDROOM UNIT
$ 300 PER MO. 4 - BEDROOM UNIT

PROJECT START OF CONSTRUCTION: AUGUST, 1990

ESTIMATE COST: $ 2.4 MILLION

PERMANENT FNG: $ 2.4 MILLION US HUD 202 PROGRAM 40-YEAR; 8.5%
$ 10,000 NOAH EQUITY INVESTMENT UNRESTRICTED

PROPOSED RENT: $ 475 PER MO. 0 - BEDROOM UNIT*
$ 525 PER MO. 1 - BEDROOM UNIT*
*MR SET BY USHUD

PROJECTED START OF CONSTRUCTION: JUNE, 1990

The **Chairman**. Thank you, Mr. Brown. Thank you very much. The chair now recognizes Dr. Penzell.

STATEMENT OF DENNIS PENZELL, M.D.

Dr. **Penzell**. Mr. Chairman, my name is Dr. Dennis Penzell. I am a physician; I am the medical director of the Ruskin Migrant and Community Health Center in Ruskin, Florida. Ten thousand patients make approximately 50,000 visits to our center each year. I want to thank you for allowing me to testify on behalf of my patients, migrant farmworkers and their families.

On November 15, 1989, 112 migrant farmworkers were poisoned to various degrees after being exposed to the organophosphate pesticide, Phosdrin, also known as mevinphos. Eight of the exposed farmworkers were minors. The pesticide poisoning incident occurred in a cauliflower field in Wimauma, Florida. The field was sprayed with this chemical between 4:30 and 7:30 p.m., on November 14, 1989, and the first farmworkers began banding their cauliflowers at about 8 a.m., on Wednesday, November 15, 1989. There is a 48-hour EPA-advised reentry wait, yet only 12 hours elapsed before these individuals were allowed to begin working.

Within several hours of their exposure, the farmworkers began feeling dizzy, light-headed, and nauseated. Some were vomiting, some had severe abdominal pains, and some had passed out. We at the Ruskin Migrant and Community Health Center are a Federally-funded migrant and community health center with 50 percent of our patient population being migrant farmworkers and their families. The poisoned patients presented to our center for emergency assistance rather than a local emergency room. They arrived in waves starting at about 12:45 p.m. and continued to arrive until between 4:30 to 5 o'clock, p.m.

The patients were weak, unable to stand, having blurred or double vision, tremors, and twitching. Of the 112 exposed, 84 presented to our center for emergency care and 28 others were seen in the fields by Dr. James Hillman, a toxicology specialist who was helicoptered in from the Tampa General Hospital for assistance. Those individuals were the least affected and had minimal symptoms.

Of the 84 treated at the Ruskin Migrant and Community Health Center, 50 were immediately decontaminated and sent to 1 of 6 local hospitals. A county disaster plan was mobilized due to the large number of sick patients being transported.

Of the 50 transported, 13 were admitted to intensive care and progressive care units for up to one week. The patients admitted to the hospital were having severe weakness, irregular heartbeats, slow heartbeats, seizures, as well as blood pressure problems. The additional 34 were seen at our center, examined, decontaminated, and discharged with instructions.

During the subsequent 5 months, we have been able to follow up 45 patients who returned to us for follow-up care. They persisted in having complaints which included headaches, dizziness, weakness, and abdominal distress. Five pregnant women were also followed. One spontaneously aborted her pregnancy at 3 months, one delivered a normal baby, two are still in prenatal care, and one is being outreached.

The long-term consequences of pesticide exposure are not fully known. Studies have not been done and are difficult to accomplish. Records are poorly kept and difficult to keep as a worker is exposed to many pesticides over a lifetime. Also, there is a long period of latency for the development of certain effects, especially cancer. It may be years before cancer is demonstrated in a patient.

There is, however, a strong correlation between pesticide exposure and long-term health effects. These effects range from spontaneous abortions to various malignancies, and in some situations the cause-and-effect data are stronger than others. A study of 52 cotton field sprayers using a variety of pesticides, including organophosphates similar to the one in our incident, showed a significant increase in chromosomal aberrations in the exposed population than when compared to controls. Indeed, a study of 12 couples employed to spray gardens revealed an increase in the incidence of abortions and an increase in stillborns over control subjects.

A recent article in "Family Practice News" said that parental exposure to pesticides on the job may put unborn children at an increased risk of leukemia during childhood. Some investigators have reported agricultural workers with higher death rates from malignant brain tumors and are at an increased risk for testicular cancer. Other long-term effects seen and suspected for increased risks have been noted in a review of the epidemiological literature by Dr. Marion Moses and are as follows: lymphoma; leukemia; multiple myeloma; GI tract cancer; lung cancer; pesticide exposure and cancer in children cluster noted from the agricultural community in the San Joaquin Valley in California; sterility in humans; neuropathies, which are damage to the nervous system; neuro-behavioral abnormalities; and allergic dermatitis.

The daily occupational activities of migrant farmworkers lack the legal protections of other occupations. Additionally, the lack of the application and enforcement of the laws adds to the complications of their lives. However, the frequent exposure to pesticides makes farm work very dangerous. Exposures are multiplied by contact with crops, soil, air, and water.

Farmworker housing frequently surrounds the fields, and it is not uncommon for farmworkers and their family members to be downwind from a tractor or plane as it is spraying. Pesticides may also be in their water supply. Cumulative exposures start at a young age. Agriculture is the only industry where children comprise a significant part of the work force.

The problems and challenges are clear. Improved working conditions, stricter monitoring of the farmers and their use of pesticides, as well as farmworker education are needed. Furthermore, careful evaluation and epidemiological studies need to be undertaken. Only then will we be able to determine for certain what effects the pesticides are having on the health of those we pay to harvest our food.

I thank you very much.

The **Chairman**. Thank you, Dr. Penzell.

The chair now recognizes Mr. George Ortiz.

STATEMENT OF GEORGE ORTIZ

Mr. Ortiz. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Before I start with my remarks, I would like to let you know that my testimony is extensive and covers the entire farmworker community, but since this is the Select Committee on Aging I will try to confine my remarks to that category of farmworker.

The Chairman. Mr. Ortiz, if you so desire, we can include your entire testimony in the record at this point, and then you can summarize.

Mr. Ortiz. Thank you very much.

The Chairman. All right. Without objection, that will be the order. Will you proceed then.

Mr. Ortiz. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is George Ortiz, and I am here before you today representing several organizations, each of them firmly committed to the well-being of the American farmworker community, and these are the California Human Development Corporation, a service agency over which I have presided for the past 25 years; the Committee for Farm Worker Programs, a national advocacy group based here in Washington, DC, which I chair.

With your kind indulgence, I expect to accomplish 3 things today on behalf of the nearly 6 million members of the American farmworker community: first, provide a perspective that will help set a realistic context in which we can act to meet this community's many human and social needs; second, in the process, hopefully dispel numerous myths about this terribly vulnerable subsector of our population and hence improve the quality of our efforts to help; and, third, to suggest some specific courses of action for the Congress.

I am aware of the extensive data gathering already done by your fine staff on farmworker issues and will not regale you with repetitions nor statistical treatments of that data. The idea is to get a good look at this community as individuals and families—that includes the elderly—whose quality of life has not changed despite all the data collecting, statistical analysis, public policies, and regulatory actions; it still remains the same.

No one has done a better job of describing the state of the Nation's farmworkers in clear language, easily understood by everyone, than the late Congressman Mickey Leland when, as chair of the House Select Committee on Hunger in July 1986, said farmworkers are "ill housed, undernourished, underemployed, undereducated, underpaid, and facing enormous health hazards... [They are] also politically powerless, socially isolated, excluded from much of the work-protective legislation other American workers take for granted, and unable to compete in the labor market for the higher wages that would permit them to resolve their own problems or ameliorate the bleak reality of their existence."

Farmworkers and other perennially poor lost a great friend and advocate when Congressman Leland died in pursuit of his duties, but his eloquent statement persists as the most faithful description of the deplorable conditions under which our American farmworkers live, work, and struggle for marginal survival. It is as valid today as a statement of public concern and of a nation's neglect and indifference as it ever has been.

Our farmworkers throughout the United States are known as the poorest of the working poor. They are employed an average of 25 weeks and seldom earn more than $6,000 a year. They are permanently qualified to be on the "below poverty level" list, regardless of the rise and fall of economic indices. They are the prime example of that growing underclass of Americans who cannot ever escape poverty by means of hard and diligent work. There is no American Dream for them, which means to all of us here concerned that other solutions need to be explored and applied. Where they do not exist, then we must invent them.

Current estimates of the size of the national farmworker population reached 6 million, of which approximately two-thirds are limited—in other words, the elderly or nonworking dependents; that is approximately 4 million people. Within that subpopulation of dependents, fewer than 10 percent of the school-age children are enrolled in migrant education programs.

Major efforts to aid this community must be directed to the dependents, especially school-age children and youth, in order to break the cycle. Every public dollar spent on family housing and on children's health, nutrition, and education will save $7 later in remediation efforts. I think this probably is applicable to the seniors as well.

Since I am before the Select Committee on Aging, let me say before going further that the only way to perceive the concept of aging within the farmworker community is to look at it as human developmental scientists do, as that continuous natural phenomenon that affects the human being from birth to death. Very few of the normal measures of aging apply to this community. How old is a farmworker's child working in the fields and orchards? Why is an old farmworker not eligible for public senior housing? Because he or she is not old enough.

Farmworkers are old at 40, decrepit at 50, and only 2 percent collect Social Security payments; they do not live long enough. They also experienced the highest incidence of job-related injuries and illnesses of any occupation, and the entire farm labor force turns over every 10 to 12 years. Farm work is destructive physically and psychologically. It kills the human body and its spirit early in life.

Therefore, to help so-called senior citizen farmworkers with any of the usual services in adult education, training, and employment, housing, health, and rehabilitation, we need a different meaning of "aging," more accommodating legal definitions of "aging," another view of gerontology and geriatrics as it applies to them. To my knowledge, I know of no frail, elderly farmworkers, and medical geriatric problems often begin as early as the mid-thirties.

Precise demographic data about this mobile, silent, often invisible community are difficult to gather and analyze. Relatively accurate and fairly current information, although fragmented and narrowly defined, is available in some state departments, such as education, EDD, health services, ACD, and social services, and in some specialized academic communities. What is lacking for Federal and State planners, public policy makers, service administrators, and providers is centralized and coordinated collection, analysis, and application of the data.

Perhaps the most grievous aspect of the farmworker community's social isolation from the remainder of the mainstream of society is to be found in the manifestations of 3 destructive and antidemocratic conditions. The erosion of individual and community esteem by the constant necessity to be represented by, interpreted for, and explained to by some third party, well meaning or not, the total lack of empowerment, they cannot or do not vote, and most have little sense of their innate rights and powers; the psychologically destructive recognition that their occupation identification, migrant farmworker, is negatively perceived by the rest of society, work that no normal person would want to do. In a recent national survey, it ranked as the very least desirable occupation on a list of 250. Perhaps even worse, if that is possible, is the farmworker's own self-perception that, given the apparent disregard of others, their deplorable conditions are somehow their natural lot in life and perhaps even deserved.

As stated earlier, on April 17 Judy Woodruff's "Frontline," the TV program, was aired entitled "New Harvest, Old Shame." This excellent presentation of contemporary migrant farmworkers' way of life was a bit of Edward Murrow's famous "Harvest of Shame" revisited after 30 years. Woodruff's title says it all; nothing has changed. Obviously, the American farmworker community needs more than another historical documentary every generation or so to show that nothing really has changed.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I have been privileged to share some thoughts and perceptions with you in the hope of contributing positively to the body of knowledge you need to enable you to make the best informed decisions possible on behalf of our American farmworker community.

Allow me at this point to conclude with several specific recommendations. The United States Congress can undertake some measures to help its farm worker community get a fair and equitable share of the Nation's attention, commitment, and resources, 1, by thinking farmworkers, particularly the elderly farmworkers. The number of elected and appointed Federal officials who get up each morning and think farmworkers would barely fill the first row of this room, and maybe not even that.

2, use the stature and authority of the Congress to seek and obtain fair and equitable shares of available Federal monies for provision of services across the board to the farmworker community. This certainly includes the older farmworkers.

3, demonstrate publicly the Congress's interest in and concern for this unique subpopulation in the many public forums, studies, and analyses, reports, publications, and other modes of legislative expression.

4, consider establishing an institute-like structure to centralize and coordination information about the farmworker community. It would also conduct studies and analyses, provide technical assistance to those needing it in order to service farmworkers, ally with other concerned parties, research and publish data useful to planners and policy makers, and make public policy recommendations.

5, consider appointing a select committee for farmworker matters. It would carry out investigative and oversight functions that typify the selective attention given to complex matters and issues of pressing public concern, as in the case of aging, for example.

6, consider the creation of an office of farm worker ombudsman. The ombudsman would analyze existing processes and systems and make recommendations to make them more farmworker user-friendly. In other words, if bureaucratic red tape defeats some of us at times with our resources and know-how, can you imagine how totally mysterious these processes are to the farmworker community?

Also, the Congress may wish to determine what is a minimum standard of performance for its efforts to help the American farmworker community. In that regard, it can begin by making a fair comparison with its previous and ongoing efforts on behalf of other subpopulations of the United States deemed to need the special protection of law and legislative intent. Some of these are identifiable as the frail elderly, children and minors, the handicapped and disabled, consumer fraud victims, institutionalized persons, at risk youth, and other groups for whom the United States Congress has shown generous amounts of concern, care, and, in some cases, resources.

I want to thank you for the opportunity to appear before you. I would be pleased to answer any questions, if I may.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Ortiz follows:]

THE AMERICAN FARMWORKER COMMUNITY

TESTIMONY OF

GEORGE L. ORTIZ
PRESIDENT, CALIFORNIA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE

SELECT COMMITTEE ON AGING
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CHAIRED BY

THE HONORABLE EDWARD R. ROYBAL

IN

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ON

APRIL 24, 1990

THE AMERICAN FARMWORKER COMMUNITY

TESTIMONY OF GEORGE L. ORTIZ BEFORE THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON AGING, CHAIRED BY THE HONORABLE EDWARD R. ROYBAL, IN WASHINGTON, D.C. ON APRIL 24, 1990.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee:

My name is **GEORGE ORTIZ**, and I am here before you today representing several organizations, each of them firmly committed to the well-being of the American Farmworker Community. These are:

the **California Human Development Corporation**, a service agency over which I have presided for the past 25 years; and

the **Committee For Farmworker Programs**, a national advocacy group based here in Washington, which I chair.

With your kind indulgence, I expect to **accomplish 3 things today** on behalf of the nearly 6 million members of the American Farmworker Community:

o Provide a perspective that will help **set a realistic context in which we can act** to meet this community's many human and social needs;

o In the process, hopefully **dispel numerous myths** about this terribly vulnerable subsector of our population, and hence **improve the quality of our efforts** to help; and

o Suggest some **specific courses of action for The Congress**.

I am aware of the extensive data-gathering already done by your fine staff on farmworker issues, and will not regale you with repetitions nor with statistical treatments of that data. **The idea is to get a good look at this community as individuals and families, whose quality of life does not change -- and has not changed -- despite all the data collecting, statistical analyses, public policies and regulatory actions.**

No one has done a better job of **describing the state of the Nation's farmworkers** in clear language, easily understood by everyone, than the late **Congressman Mickey Leland**, when as Chair of the House Select Committee on Hunger in July, 1986, he said:

> **[Farmworkers are] " ill-housed, undernourished, underemployed, undereducated, underpaid, and facing enormous health hazards. . . . [They are also] politically powerless, socially isolated, excluded from much of the work-protective legislation other American workers take for granted, and unable to compete in the labor market for the higher wages that would permit them to resolve their own problems or ameliorate the bleak reality of their existence. "**

Farmworkers and other perennially poor lost a great friend and advocate when Congressman Leland died in pursuit if his duties, but his eloquent statement persists as the most faithful description of the deplorable conditions under which our American farmworkers live, work and struggle for marginal survival. **It is as valid today as a statement of public concern and of a nation's neglect and indifference as it ever has been.**

Farmworkers throughout the United States are known as the "**poorest of the working poor.**" They are employed an average of 25 weeks, and seldom earn more than $6,000 a year. They are **permanently qualified to be on the "below poverty level" list** regardless of the rise and fall of economic indices. They are the prime example of that growing underclass of Americans who **cannot ever escape poverty by means of hard and diligent work. There is no American Dream for them.**

Which means to all of us here concerned that other solutions need be explored and applied; and where they do not exist, then invented!

Size is no respecter of these conditions and may even aggravate. For example, these dehumanizing and socially destructive conditions are equally true and as prevalent in the great State of California, whose gross annual agricultural production is worth $15 BILLION, the largest in the world. California's "agribusiness" provides periodic employment for more than 1.1 million migrant and seasonal farmworkers, who represent almost 50 percent of the nation's farmworker labor pool.

The Farmworker Population

Farmworker populations must be perceived as whole **communities**, comprised of men, women and children, who form both nuclear and extended families, and who demonstrate the very best of human group behavior. **That is; cooperative, collaborative and supportive behavior; (the highly-prized "neighborliness" our mainstream society laments losing); group integrity, loyalty and pride**.

One perception that may prove to be useful to public policy makers, planners, regulators, and service providers is that **our national farmworker population represents an active, emerging Third World community growing in the very midst of the most highly developed, technological country in the world.** When viewed in this light, many of the **problems of accessibility and communication become clearer, and a better understanding of the conflicting organizational structures and related value systems** can also be achieved.

Current estimates of the size of the national farmworker population reach 6 million, of which approximately two-thirds are limited or nonworking dependents (4 million). Within that sub-population of dependents, fewer than 10 percent of school-age children are enrolled in migrant education programs. Major efforts to aid this community must be directed to the dependents, especially school-age children and youth, in order to break the cycle. **Every public dollar spent on family housing and on children's health, nutrition and education will save 7 dollars later in remediation efforts.**

Concept of Aging in the Farmworker Community

Since I am before the Select Committee on Aging, let me say, before going any further, that the only way to perceive the concept of aging within the farmworker community is to look at it as human developmental specialists do: **as that continuous natural phenomenon that affects the human being from birth through death.** Very few of the "normal measures of aging" apply to this community. How **old** is a farmworker's child working in the fields and orchards? Why is an **old farmworker** not eligible for public senior housing? **Because he or she is not old enough!**

Farmworkers are old at 40, decrepit at 50 -- and only 2 percent collect social security payments. They do not live long enough!

They also experience the highest incidence of job-related injuries and illnesses of any occupation. And the entire farm labor force turns over every 10 to 12 years. **Farm work is destructive, physically and psychologically. It kills the human body and its spirit early in life.**

Therefore, to help **so-called "senior citizen farmworkers"** with any of the usual services in adult education, training and employment, housing, health and rehabilitation, **we need a different "meaning of aging", more accomodating legal definitions of aging, another view of gerontology and geriatrics as it applies to them.** To my knowledge, I know of no "frail elderly" farmworkers. And medical, "geriatric" problems often begin as early as the mid-thirties.

Amnesty: Some Good, Some Bad.

The farmworker community responded in incredible numbers to the Amnesty (La Amnistia), the window of opportunity that made legal status accessible by the **Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) of 1986**. More than 1.8 million previously undocumented "Special Agricultural Workers" (SAWs) applied. California applications, alone, accounted for some 54 percent of the national SAW response.

Despite warnings from the community-based sector servicing the farmworker community, state and federal government forecasts of the numbers expected to seek legal residency were grossly understated. These figures was used to plan "increased" services in education, employment, health, housing and public welfare through the **State Legalization Impact Assistance Grant (SLIAG)** authorized by IRCA.

The result today, of course, especially in the area of educational services, is grossly inadequate funding and programming. **SAWs**, as everyone recognizes, **were excluded as a class by the Act from the requirement for educational services in order to attain permanent residency.**

In effect, **Congress reinforced the legalized farmworkers' permanent underclass status, and precluded, for all intents and purposes, whatever chance they had to achieve citizenship**. Some of us, as in California, prevailed upon our state legislatures and administrations, and succeeded in getting some limited educational services for newly legalized farmworkers.

What needs doing, to correct this malconceived piece of social engineering, is to **provide special educational services for legalized resident farmworkers that will give them the same opportunity to attain citizenship as others**, and hence be able to share in the **Great American Franchise**.

Limitations of Demographic Data

Precise demographic data about this mobile, silent and often invisible community are difficult to gather and analyze. Relatively accurate and fairly current information, although fragmented and narrowly defined, is available in some state departments such as Education, EDD, Health Services, HCD and Social Services, and in some specialized academic communities. **What is lacking for federal and state planners, public policy makers, service administrators and providers is centralized and coordinated collection, analysis and application of the data.**

Farmworkers and Federal Programs

On the national scene, many farmworker communities get short-changed in the allocation of federal resources to provide services and programs for this unique population, which exhibits enormous needs along the entire spectrum of educational, human and social services. **A prime example is the unequal distribution of DOL's JTPA funding for farmworker (402) employment and training programs and supportive services.**

Political "considerations" and other sorts of "balancing acts" between the legislative and the executive branches of our federal government have brought about this **example of an uneven distribution of resources**: The State of California, with more than half of the nation's farmworkers, gets an average "fair share" of $4 per farmworker from DOL, while Kentucky's farmworker is "worth" over $500.

The Census: The 1980 Disaster & What About 1990?

The 1980 Census was a disaster for the farmworker community and the programs and services intended for them. Post-census analyses by diverse and nationally-recognized agricultural economists and demographers place the **undercount as high as 65 percent**. To aggravate matters further, large increases in farmworker populations were recorded elsewhere in the United States (including The Bronx, New York).

Since federal agencies rely heavily on interpretations of that data in determining their resource allocation policies and plans, it is conservatively estimated that **highly populated farmworker states (97 percent of the entire FW population is in 10 states) lost hundreds of millions of dollars for farmworker services alone**.

Since 1986, the beginning of the Census Bureau's public planning for the 1990 Census, our agencies have been heavily involved in working to prevent another undercount and another maldistribution of the national farmworker population. **At stake, once again, is the allocation of millions of resource dollars for another decade and perhaps, even more importantly, the redistribution of numbers of seats in the House of Representatives and in state legislatures.**

Maslow's "Hierarchy of Needs" Applied

To provide solutions to the myriad of problems presented by this unique population's special needs, takes up several volumes. Examples of specified needs and services to ameliorate those needs abound, and some have been presented here today. To set them in a useful perspective of human and community development needs that would best help the farmworker community, I would urge all concerned to be guided by the range of individual, family and community needs identified so clearly by **Dr. Abraham Maslow's useful matrix, Hierarchy of Needs**.

When it comes to the farmworker community, there is no aspect of the human condition that does not require attention, effort and commitment by our society, by national and state legislators, by policy and decision-makers at all levels, by the priority-setters everywhere, and by providers of services.

When farmworkers, their families and their communities receive that attention, they may be able to climb above the minimal survival level they currently occupy.

Giving and Taking

Farmworkers give so much of themselves to our society with their **intelligence, intensive hard labor, their undaunted spirit, modest pride and optimism, their rich language, music, dance and art, their great love of family, children and community**. They possess a very high degree of group cooperation, and an almost complete absence of competitive greed.

Much of what they have that is so socially healthy, despite their grinding poverty, our own mainstream society is now attempting to recapture for itself: personal integrity, family values, community loyalty.

They take very little and cost even less. Statistically insignificant crime rates, low unemployment (although high underemployment), a very low order of public subsidy program usage, minimum use of educational, health and social services.

And they hardly ever ask for anything except **fairness, justice, and some societal acceptance**, on occasion. **They never demand. And, hence, are seldom heard.**

The Effect of Social Isolation

Perhaps, the most grievous aspect of **the farmworker community's social isolation from the remainder of the mainstream society** is to be found in the manifestations of these 3 destructive and anti-democratic conditions:

- The **erosion of individual and community esteem** by the constant necessity to be represented by, interpreted for, and explained to, by some third party, well-meaning or not;
- The **total lack of empowerment** (they cannot or do not vote and most have little sense of their innate rights and powers);
- The psychologically destructive recognition that their occupational identification -- **migrant farmwork -- is negatively perceived by the rest of society**. Work that no "normal" person would want to do. In a recent national survey, it ranked as the very least desirable occupation on a list of 250.

Perhaps even worse, if that is possible, is the **farmworkers' own self-perception** that, given the apparent disregard of others, their deplorable conditions are, somehow, their **"natural lot in life"** and perhaps even deserved.

These issues will not go away. A community that has the extent of need that farmworkers have, must be given massive, comprehensive and continuous treatment or the efforts to help will be lost, dribbled piece meal away.

Unfortunately, this denigrative self-perception is often contributed to and nourished, wittingly or unwittingly, and in no small measure, by all of us who, per force, must single them out and publicly proclaim the "bleak reality of their existence," if we are ever to help them ultimately help themselves.

Just one week ago today, April 17th, the **Judy Woodruff's PBS "Frontline" TV program was aired, entitled "New Harvest, Old Shame."** This excellent presentation of contemporary migrant farmworkers' way of life, was a bit of Edward Murrow's famous (notorious?) "Harvest of Shame" revisited after some 30 years. Woodruff's title says it all: nothing has changed.

Obviously, the **American Farmworker Community needs more than another historical documentary every generation or so to show that nothing has changed.**

Concluding Remarks and Recommendations

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I have been privileged to share some thoughts and perceptions with you in the hope of contributing positively to the body of knowledge you need to enable you to make the best informed decisions possible on behalf of our American Farmworker Community. Allow me, at this point, to conclude with several specific recommendations:

WHAT THE CONGRESS CAN DO

The United States Congress can undertake some measures to help its farmworker community get a **fair and equitable share** of the Nation's attention, commitment and resources.

1. **"Think farmworkers".** (The number of elected and appointed federal officials who get up each morning, and think "farmworkers" would barely fill the first row of this room.)

2. **Use the stature and authority of The Congress to seek and obtain fair and equitable shares of available federal monies for provision of services across the board to the farmworker community.**

3. **Demonstrate publicly The Congress' interest in, and concern for, this unique sub-population in the many public forums, studies and analyses, reports, publications, and other modes of legislative expression.**

4. **Consider establishing an institute-like structure to centralize and coordinate information about the farmworker community.** It would also conduct studies and analyses, provide technical assistance to those needing it in order to service farmworkers, liaise with other concerned parties, research and publish data useful to planners and policy-makers, and make public policy recommendations.

5. **Consider appointing a "Select Committee for Farmworker Matters."** It would carry out investigative and oversight functions that typify the selective attention given to complex matters and issues of pressing public concern, as in the case of Aging, for example.

6. **Consider the creation of an "Office of Farmworker Ombudsman."** The Ombudsman would analyze existing processes and systems, and make recommendations to make them more "farmworker user friendly." (If bureaucratic "red tape" defeats some of us at times with our resources and know-how, can you imagine how totally mysterious these processes are to a farmworker community?)

Minimum Standard of Performance

The Congress may wish to determine what is a minimum standard of performance for its efforts to help the American Farmworker Community.

In that regard, it can begin by making a fair comparison with its previous and ongoing efforts on behalf of other sub-populations of the United States deemed to need the special protection of law and legislative intent. Some of these are identifiable as the frail elderly, children and minors, the handicapped and disabled, consumer-fraud victims, institutionalized persons, at-risk youth, and other groups for whom the the United States Congress has shown generous amounts of concern, care and, in some cases, resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I would be pleased to answer any questions, if I may.

The **Chairman**. Thank you, Mr. Ortiz.

The chair will recognize now Mr. Chapa.

STATEMENT OF AMANCIO CHAPA

Mr. **Chapa**. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee.

My name is Amancio Chapa, and I here both as executive director of Amigos del Valle, Incorporated, of Mission, Texas, and as a member of the board of directors of the Housing Assistance Council. I am also a member of the National Task Force on Older Farm Workers. We are grateful for the opportunity to discuss with you some of the programs and, I hope, some of the solutions to the difficulties facing older farmworkers in their efforts to secure services and to find and pay for affordable, decent housing.

I first want to point out that while my organization and others you are hearing from today have successfully helped some older farmworkers, there is still a much larger group in great need. I would also, Mr. Chairman, like to thank the American Association of Retired Persons for bringing public attention to the problems of older farmworkers. Without AARP's leadership on this issue over the last few years, we would probably not be holding this hearing today.

Let me give you briefly some background on myself, on my 20 years in rural government and human service programs and on the groups I represent. I have had the privilege of serving as mayor of La Joya, Texas, and as city manager of Alton, Texas, both rural communities with very large migrant seasonal farmworker populations, and I am currently in my seventeenth year as a member of the La Joya Independent School District, a growing yet still rural school district with a large migrant and seasonal farmworker population.

The Housing Assistance Council—or HAC—is a national nonprofit group which, since 1971, has worked to promote low-income rural housing. HAC provides technical assistance, seed money, loans, research, information, and training to community-based nonprofits, local governments, and for-profit housing developers.

Amigos del Valle, Incorporated, of which I am the executive director, is a community services organization serving the older Americans in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. While Amigos has programs specifically targeted for older farmworkers, we have estimated that at least 50 percent of our clientele are elderly or retired persons who have done agricultural labor. We and other groups interested in the welfare of older farmworkers have found out that the best way of helping them is to locate and increase the programs and services in the areas where the farmworker population is concentrated, and certainly the Valley is such a location.

Amigos del Valle provides meals, transportation, and housing for a mostly Hispanic, low-income elderly population in Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy Counties in South Texas. These counties have some of the highest poverty and unemployment rates in the Nation. Four of five residents are Hispanic. Cameron has a poverty rate of 32 percent and unemployment of 16 percent. Hidalgo

County has a poverty rate of 35 percent and unemployment of 20 percent, while Willacy County has a poverty rate of 35 percent and an unemployment rate of 18 percent. Cameron and Hidalgo Counties have the highest poverty rates of all metro area counties in the United States.

I want to address today the issue of services needed by older farmworkers. Amigos del Valle provides two basic types of services, meals and transportation. We prepare and serve about 3,300 hot lunches 5 days a week. One thousand of these meals are for shut-ins in our home-delivered Meals on Wheels. The remainder go to 33 sites in our 3-county areas. The sites include several local housing authorities, our own senior housing projects, and a number of senior activity centers. These meals—and I mean not just our program but meals for the poor elderly in general—are a vital program, particularly for a low-income population such as older farmworkers.

A 1986 study of the elderly by the State of Texas showed that one-third of the recipients in my geographic area said that the meal that we served was the only meal of the day that they had. This shocking finding led the Texas legislature to pass the Omnibus Hunger Act. However, this is aimed only at shut-ins and is the only State contribution to any of our programs.

Transportation is our other basic service. We operate a fleet of 9 vans and 8 buses, providing shuttle services for seniors to and from shopping, senior activity centers, and other sites. We have urban and rural routes, including transportation to and from the rural colonias, and more about the colonias is found later in this testimony.

The biggest problem that we have, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, in providing these services to older farmworkers and our other clients is that the funding for meals and transportation programs has stayed the same throughout the 1980's. Of course, we are grateful that funds have not been cut, but demand for our services has continued to grow steadily. We have no control over most of the operational costs, such as foodstuffs, gasoline, insurance, and maintenance. Without inflationary adjustments in funding, we and many other voluntary agencies in the Valley will have to cut services and turn away needy people.

Another problem we face is the annual influx of elderly winter Texans who spend 4 months of the year in our region. They participate in senior programs in the Midwest and elsewhere and know their rights. They come to our centers for services, and we certainly do not want to turn them away. An Older Americans Act seasonal allotment for States that receive a winter influx of temporary residents would help alleviate this problem.

In addition to services, Amigos del Valle also is a developer, owner, and manager of 6 HUD section 202 elderly housing complexes in the Lower Rio Grande Valley with a total of 356 units. About half of our tenants are older farmworkers. I can most certainly attest first-hand as to the need for and benefits of this particular housing program. Yet, while the demand for this affordable elderly housing increases, the funding continues to fall year by year. Why? It is, of course, the expression of the Federal commitment to housing generally and, in particular, to housing the poorest of these among us, the retired elderly and the disabled farmworkers. For them, there is no specific housing program at all. There should be, and there could be.

In 1987, the American Association of Retired Persons published a Housing Assistance Council study entitled "After The Harvest: The Plight Of Older Farm Workers." Members of the committee who have not seen the report should look at it for two reasons: first, because it sets forth the stark reality of the everyday living conditions of farmworker; and, second, because it discloses how little we really know about this vital yet vulnerable population. It is difficult to separate retired farmworkers from those still working, for, indeed, few can afford to retire. One farmworker advocate described her father, who had worked in the fields from age 12 to age 65 and now, at age 67, receives $225 in SSI benefits and $10 in food stamps monthly. He, of course, must still work, driving a tractor.

The nature of the work, the exposure to chemicals, the poor living conditions, all contribute to early aging among farmworkers. HAC and others believe it entirely reasonable to consider age 45 as the time farmworkers reach elderly status. At that time, many are ill, injured, infirm, or disabled, yet with few, if any, resources with which to face their golden years, nor can they expect much help from the Federal programs. Many are ineligible for benefit programs such as Social Security and SSI income payments. They are often isolated without transportation or telephone. Rental housing programs in the area, even at our own Amigos del Valle, often bypass these elderly farmworkers. Many do not qualify for the Farmers Home rental programs because of their very low income, especially if there is no project rental assistance.

Many of our farmworkers also live in the rural colonias which surround many of the farmworker communities, and these are rural areas that are commonly found in South Texas, along the Rio Grande River, which are unincorporated, with no infrastructure, where water has to be brought in from canals or from nearby cities, and also contains some of the most deplorable housing conditions that exist in our area.

There are programs which could help. They all cost money. I know of no other effective program which does not cost money. As I mentioned earlier, the HUD 202 program can help many elderly farmworkers, but each year the Administration cuts it back a bit more. Farmers Home rental assistance programs for both the elderly, the section 515, and, for farmworkers, sections 514 and 516 could reach many more elderly farmworkers if funding were increased, and I would refer you to the recommendation of the National Task Force on Older Farm Workers submitted to this hearing as written testimony.

In addition, I would like to point out, more than anything else, there must be a program to address the housing needs of all farmworkers before we will be able to successfully address the specific needs of elderly farmworkers. Such a program must address the housing needs of farmworkers as they travel to harvest around the country as well as the home-based States. The Housing Assistance Council has proposed such a program, and, with your permission, I ask that that proposal be incorporated into the hearing record.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, it will be so ordered.

Mr. **Chapa**. Briefly stated, the program contemplates a census of farmworkers designed by the Bureau of the Census but conducted by any of the State migrant agencies which agree to undertake the actual count. Each State desiring to participate in the migrant shelter program would be asked to develop an outline of agricultural crops within the State which utilize migrant labor, describing, at a minimum, the crop to be harvested, the normal months when migrants are utilized for either harvest or cultivation, by location within the State and county. The actual count would then be undertaken throughout the growing season, as the number of workers peaked, county by county.

The count would incorporate the collection of basic demographic data on the farmworkers and, most importantly, information about their current and permanent residence. Finally, the census would count every habitable housing unit available to migrant farmworkers within the immediate harvest area. The result of the census would be an accurate count of migrant farm laborers county by county, by time of year, along with the numbers of habitable housing units available for farmworkers.

With the data then available to the States, each would be asked to develop a plan for providing migrant shelters in those areas of the State suffering a shortage, including the development and construction or acquisition costs, along with a suggested local management agent for both harvest use and off-season maintenance. The Federal Government would agree to pay 100 percent of the development and construction costs less land and infrastructure and up to 75 percent of the year-round management costs incurred by the local management agent. Neither of these payments would come from existing farm labor programs or, indeed, from any existing program, it would be a new and separate program.

Again, Mr. Chairman, I thank you for this opportunity to relate our experience in working with elderly and retired farmworkers and to present our views in addressing their problems, and just in summation, I would just indicate to you that the demographics, again, of our country show that the senior population of this country is the fastest growing. Migrant seasonal farmworkers, as you have heard from all the panelists, age earlier, and that is a growing population, and it is truly a shame that, with these demographics staring us in the face, our Federal resources continue to diminish. If we are to deal with this problem, we must invigorate, we must increase the services and the funds available to address this very serious problem.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[The proposal above-mentioned follows:]

A PROPOSAL FOR MIGRANT SHELTER

For nearly twenty years the Housing Assistance Council has worked with local migrant service agencies, with local farmers and growers, with state and local government, and with the Farmers Home Administration in an effort to develop adequate housing for farmworkers. It has been frustrating, and largely unsuccessful. Neither necessary funding nor workable, practical programs have existed. This brief paper is an effort to commence again with a demonstration which may suggest a sound program for the future.

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The most recent survey (in 1980) of the national need for migrant farmworker shelter indicated a shortage of nearly 800,000 units. More rigorous enforcement of health and sanitary standards since that time have meant the loss of even more private labor camp units, while the only federal farmlabor housing program has financed, since 1980, fewer than 5,000 new units, virtually all of those in states with nearly year round need for farm labor. The existing farmlabor housing program administered by the Farmers Home Administration in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is wholly inadequate to the task.

Funded at roughly $22 million in FY 1990 - half loans and half grants - the Section 514/516 farmlabor housing program simply cannot meet the need. Furthermore, the nature of the program financing virtually necessitates year round occupancy of the units which are built, making it totally impractical in agricultural areas with a labor demand of only three or four months.

There is very real need for migrant shelter in those regions of the country with short growing seasons -- generally the northern tier of states from Utah across to Maryland and North. The need there is every bit as great as the need for year around housing in home based states. Farmworkers, families with children as well as single workers, literally have no shelter in many places. They sleep in cars, in culverts, in the fields they harvest, in abandoned animal sheds, in tents, and when they can afford it, in cheap motels where they can at least clean up every week or so.

Two things are needed: a six fold expansion of the present 514/516 farm labor housing program which would finance about 2,500 year round units annually; and, a new program which would finance shelters, at about half the cost of year round units, across the northern tier of states. Such shelters would be required to meet modified health and sanitary standards established by the Farmers Home Administration in 7 CFR 1924(a)(Exhibit I). A program to finance 10,000 migrant shelter units annually would cost about $250 million.

To make a very modest beginning toward meeting the housing needs of a significant group of employees critical to our agricultural production, the Congress must expand our farm labor housing program by about $350 million annually.

But perhaps most important, even as the Congress addresses the problems of housing migrant farmworkers, is the necessity of securing sufficient, current data on the scope of the problem. No one denies the lack of shelter. No one seriously suggests that the problem be ignored. Most states with any significant population of farmworkers has a state agency charged with the responsibility of providing aid to migrants, and most states have one or more private migrant assistance organizations. The Federal government has the Interagency Committee on Migrants, comprised of representatives from the Departments of Agriculture, Education, Health and Human Services, Justice, Labor, the Environmental Protection Agency and others, all agencies with some responsibility for migrant farmworkers.

All these groups have something in common beyond their responsibility or concern for migrants - a profound ignorance of the population to whom they provide services. We do not know their numbers, their race, their ages, their educational levels, their incomes, their morbidity from a dozen different diseases, or even their mortality rate. All we have are guesses, some informed, some not.

The U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census and the U.S. Department of Agriculture are the principal sources of data on the agricultural labor force. Both these agencies have acknowledged that farm laborers are undercounted. According to the Census bureau, the poor, Blacks and Hispanics, males, and Southerners are the four groups that suffer a preponderance of undercounting. These four groups are also over-represented among farmworkers: most farmworkers are low-income; a majority are Hispanic or Black (despite the Census reporting of a White majority); and majorities of farmworkers are also male and from the South or Southwest.

A major reason for the farmworker undercount is that the decennial census is taken in early April. There are few harvests and little other agricultural work requiring hired labor underway in that period in most of the nation. But the numerous census questions on a respondent's occupation refer to the job or jobs held "last week." Since in March there are few people doing farm work, farmworkers are undercounted. Their most recent job or their job last week was almost certainly not farm work, and would not represent most of the work they have done during the past year.

Farmworkers are the lowest-paid occupational group in the country, but we know less about them than soybeans. For example, Agricultural Statistics, an annual volume published by USDA and the principal source of farmlabor information, contains hundreds of pages of data on crops and livestock but very little on farmworkers. The 1985 volume has five tables on hired farm labor and 533 tables on grain, feed, cotton, tobacco, fruits and vegetables, cattle and dairy products, poultry, oilseeds and other commodities.

It is of course too late now to make any changes in the current decennial census, but the Bureau of Census must be instructed to make changes in their procedures for the year 2000 census. In the interim a new housing census should be undertaken, to determine both the migrant shelter need and the suitable stock which currently exists to meet that need. Another survey -- another sample -- simply will not do. It needs to be an on-site census.

Such a census need not be complicated or expensive and should be conducted by each State Migrant Office, under the direction of the Bureau of Census. It should be completed not later than the growing and harvest season of 1993.

Each state desiring to participate in the migrant shelter program (discussed later) would be asked to develop an outline of agricultural crops within the state which utilize migrant labor. It would describe at a minimum, the crop to be harvested, the normal month(s) when migrants are utilized for either harvest or cultivation, by location within the state and county.

Upon receiving such an outline, the Bureau of Census would develop a protocol for a census in that state. It would of course include a count of out of state farmworkers at the period of peak work in each of the areas within the state identified in the state's outline of agricultural crops. A sample of perhaps 20% of the workers should be asked to respond to a brief questionnaire (and paid a nominal sum for their cooperation, in lieu of lost time). The questionnaire should identify, at minimum, their permanent place of residence, place of immediate residence, family characteristics, estimated personal and family income from farm labor, and from all other sources.

The second task is to identify all of the housing available for migrants within the work area -- perhaps a 30 mile radius -- and evaluate its suitability using the health and sanitary standards established in 7 CFR 1924(a)(Exhibit I).

Based upon the data developed by the census, each state would then be asked to develop a detailed plan for the location of additional labor housing units, if any, needed within the state to fulfill the need for safe, decent sanitary shelter for migrating farmworkers. Each plan would provide the number and type of units recommended at each location, the approximate cost for land, supporting infrastructure, and cost per unit. The plan would additionally suggest the local agency (public or community-based private nonprofit) which might be expected to operate and maintain the property year-round, and the annual cost of that management, including an offset of the per diem rent payment made by each worker/family.

The Migrant Shelter Program itself would be funded by specific appropriations administered by either the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. Any state desiring to participate would submit its state migrant shelter plan, with supporting detail, to the Secretary with a request for funding assistance. The Secretary would be authorized to make grants of money to each participating state for 100% of the development and construction costs, except for any land and infrastructure cost, which would be borne by the state. The Secretary may further enter into agreements to reimburse the local management agent for up to 75% of annual operation and maintenance costs for so long as the housing was needed for farm labor housing.

Both because such an increased expenditure in the present budegtary and political climate is unlikely, and because this is a new and untried program, the appropriate way to start would be with a demonstration program in three or four states. It should be set up to resolve, so far as possible, the following questions:

1. The response of the various states, and state agencies, to such a program. It would, of course, require a relatively long-term commitment of some money and a great of time and effort, both for the census and more particularly the development and operation of the housing itself.

2. The response of local governments and nonprofits in the areas in which (presumably) the housing is needed. In some places the opposition of local communities has been the biggest obstacle to providing migrant housing.

3. The cost, to each state, of developing the outline of agriculture crops within the state.

4. The cost, to the state and to the Bureau of Census of designing, conducting and analyzing the census.

5. The availability and cost of suitable sites for building such housing, in the areas in which the housing is needed.

6. The development costs, separated by those to be born by the state (access road, water and sewer extensions, if necessary and anything else not located on the housing site proper), and those to be born by the Federal grant (all site roads, walk-ways, parking and recreational areas, excavation, fill and grading, exterior lighting and all utility hookups.)

7. The cost of each unit built to the standard set forth in 7 CFR 1924(a)(Exhibit 1), and the acceptable revisions to those standards which would result in a lower cost shelter.

8. The cost of furnishing each unit with the minimum requisite beds, tables, chairs, cooking and eating utensils, and the cost of providing laundry facilities for each 20 residents to be housed.

9. The cost of constructing one general, multipurpose building which might be used for administrative purposes, day care, recreation, job training, health clinic or other constructive purpose.

10. The receptivity of local social service agencies toward the provision of services to migrants and migrant families

while actually living in the housing.

11. The weekly and seasonal cost of operating the facility while in use, including all salaries, utilities, repairs, and professional charges, along with the income from rents and any other source.

12. The off-season cost of maintenance, repair, utilities security, and the cost of both closing and reopening the facility at the end and at the beginning of the period of occupancy.

The costs of such a demonstration would be modest, and the information gained, (even if not everything listed above) would be invaluable at such time as a full-scale program might be undertaken -- the one suggested here, or any other modified, as the demonstration might indicate.

The estimated cost of such a demonstration, conducted in four states, and building 1,000 units on a minimum of ten separate sites, would be about $30 million. $5 million the first year to commence the census; $10 million in years two and three to complete the census and commence the construction; and $5 million in year four, to complete the construction and commence the maintenance contracts with the local managing agents.

The **CHAIRMAN**. Thank you, Mr. Chapa.

The chair will now recognize for a series of questions, under the 5-minute rule. Mr. James.

Mr. **JAMES**. Thank you so much.

Dr. Penzell, you were testifying about the poisoning. How many documented cases of poisonings related to agricultural workers occurred in the State of Florida in the last 5 years, do you know?

Dr. **PENZELL**. I don't have the information at hand, sir.

[The following response was subsequently received:]

Full knowledge of the extent of acute and chronic pesticide poisoning among farmworkers is hampered by the lack of physician training in recognition and treatment of these problems, the absence of information among farmworkers about their workplace exposures, their reluctance to report poisonings, and the lack of a nation reporting system to tabulate such poisoning. U.S. EPAs Pesticide Incident Monitoring System, a federally linked network of state agencies, was discontinued in 1981.

The majority of states do not have a reporting system. California, which has the best state reporting system in the country, received 3,144 reports in 1988. Three were deaths. According to EPA's 1986 Report on State-Level Pesticide Poisoning Activities, Florida's State Health Department has no such system or standard report form. Reports that may come are not from medical providers but private citizens or county health departments. They are made without specific criteria and information collected is not sufficient to identify the specific product involved. Underreporting of incidents was identified as a definite problem with all States contacted, including California.

With no formal system in place, accurate poisoning statistics are impossible to come by. However, independent surveys and reports document a portion of the poisoning that occur. A survey of 469 farmworkers in southern Florida (Florida Rural Legal Services, Inc., 1980) found that 48.5 percent (228) of the respondents reported having been directly sprayed with agricultural chemicals at least once while they worked. More than half of the farmworkers in the sample had experienced one or more of the symptoms of pesticide poisoning during 1979, and 126 farmworkers (27%) became ill enough to seek medical help. In 29 of these cases, acute pesticide poisoning was clinically confirmed.

Mr. **JAMES**. Because you testified about one particular case. There are strawberries, cauliflower, potatoes, cabbage, oranges, and other crops, including ornamentals, grown in Florida that use pesticides.

Dr. **PENZELL**. Let me say that part of the problem with determining pesticide poisoning—and I will address specifically organophospates, which are the ones that were used in the incident we were confronted with—are that the symptoms are protean and in many ways can appear like a flu or a virus, and the fact remains that many people may be undergoing pesticide poisoning or have been exposed mildly or moderately and since, as I mentioned, the symptoms are 'flu like, they may be seeing physicians, going to emergency rooms, and this may be written off to a virus or a flu.

Mr. **JAMES**. I understand that, but before we attack a problem we have to know all there is to know about it and not just hypothecate, because we have got the same problem with people eating those pesticides too. That is one of the problems we have both in our consumer concerns and the farmers' concern, too; they are in the fields themselves; they deal with those same pesticides directly and indirectly, depending on the size of the farm. So it is a danger to anyone that may come in contact with them, and if they don't follow the instructions it may well present a more significant danger.

But my question is to anyone. Are these the only poisonings you personally know of, or are there others you are aware of?

Dr. **Penzell**. In the State of Florida. There are multiple documented poisonings in other States—specifically, California.

Mr. **James**. How many deaths in Florida do you know of in the last 10 years—there must be some—from poisoning, if it is that serious a problem?

Dr. **Penzell**. I don't have that information at hand.

[The following response was subsequently received:]

As previouly stated, with no formal reporting system in place, it is impossible to accurately know how many farmworkers have died as a result of their direct exposure to pesticides. It is extremely important that further research and surveys are conducted which will assess the extent of poisonings and then the deaths which occur at a later time due to the poisonings.

Of the 29 acute pesticide poisoning cases cited previously, unless longer term tracking is conducted, we may never know the extent of death which occurs as a result of acute pesticide poisoning and from consistent daily exposure as well.

Mr. **James**. All right. Thank you.

The minimum wage, how does that affect most of the farmworkers? Aren't most of them subject to minimum wage considerations?

Dr. **Penzell**. It depends on exactly which field they are working in. In many ways, they are not subject to minimum wage laws, they are paid on a per collection basis, the number of flats of strawberries, for example, that they collect.

Mr. **James**. When they do piece work, though, doesn't the Department of Labor still analyze and demand a recording of the hours? It is my understanding, and I am not an expert in this area; but it is my understanding that there is a problem there. I know the cabbage growers in my district were concerned, when the minimum wage was raised, that it would adversely affect them, even though that is piece work. There is still a double check or a standard of some sort to ensure that a minimum wage is basically paid within a certain productivity rate. Maybe you know how that works, Mr. Brown. Could you explain the guidelines here.

Mr. **Brown**. Supposedly, the number of baskets picked by piece rate should equal the minimum wage. We would submit today that that is one of the reasons why the elderly farmworker is excluded from that, because after they get to a certain age they are no longer as rapid, as fast, as they had been in the old days, so they are excluded from many jobs. So when they are excluded from those jobs, that means they are excluded from housing.

Mr. **James**. That means they won't be employed if they don't maintain a certain productivity rate. So your answer to my question is, there is a minimum wage law applied to farmworkers.

Mr. **Brown**. It is.

Mr. **James**. Yes, that was my understanding of it.

Mr. **Brown**. The piece rate should equal the minimum wage.

Mr. **James**. So the problem with the elderly in that regard would be unemployment rather than conditions of work.

Mr. **Brown**. It would both. You would take, as the last resort, the elderly farmworkers, because there are not enough younger people available. So it works both ways.

Mr. **James**. I had also understood there is a problem because adequate day-care facilities are lacking, and so the workers bring their young children to the fields, and that is disallowed under Federal law, is it not?

Mr. **Brown**. Supposedly.

Mr. **James**. Yes, although it occurs, I am sure it sometimes happens without the farmer's knowledge.

Mr. **Brown**. Many fields are located in areas where there are not adequate day-care facilities, so normally parents will bring their children to the field with them, and when they are, let's say, 6 months, 3, maybe 4 years old, they are just out there, but after about 5, or 6, or 7 years old they begin to participate in the harvest of the crops themselves.

Mr. **James**. I have recently talked to some farmers in my district, and they are equally concerned about the housing, because without adequate housing you won't have workers. I have also toured day-care facilities in the farming area designed for that purpose, and they have impressed upon me the tremendous demand. I just toured 17 day-care facilities in my district. It is obvious that day care shortages are a major problem for low-income people, and especially in agricultural areas because such a high percentage of agricultural workers are low-income individuals. Whether they are making minimum wage or not, minimum wage is hardly a living wage. The perception that it is only exacerbates the problem.

With respect to the workmen's compensation laws, how do they affect the situation in most States? Many farmers have workmen's compensation on their workers, but in some cases they don't. What are the rules in Florida?

Mr. **Brown**. The rules are pretty much the same all over. I think once you get past 3 to 4 workers you must have workmen's compensation. As an ex-compliance officer for the State of Florida, there were about 8 of us who had to cover the whole State of Florida. The problem is, because of the lack of man hours, the lack of man time, or the lack of manpower, many of these laws go unenforced.

Mr. **James**. Wait a minute. Workmen's compensation is a little different because private attorneys will take workmen's compensation cases if there is an injury. If that farmer doesn't have workmen's compensation, and a worker was injured on the job, the farmer will most assuredly regret it, because he will be personally liable for the amount.

In Florida you will quite frequently see television advertisements by law firms that will clearly tell you how to get workman's compensation. It may not be the same in other States, but in Florida farmers are subject to workmen's compensation, and I recognize this to be an advance that has been made in the last few years. Therefore, there is some relief areas that we didn't have in the past. It used to be, workmen's compensation did not apply 5 years ago, did it?

Mr. **Brown**. That is correct.

Mr. **James**. Okay. When did workmen's compensation apply to agricultural workers? That helps some, does it not? Because in the case of the poisoning, if you are poisoned in the field by pesticides, then you will get your lost wages and your medical treatment through workmen's compensation.

Doctor, did you send any of them to a workmen's compensation expert?

Dr. **Penzell**. Yes. We were fortunate that, of the people that were the sickest, workers' compensation did cover their medical bills as well as did give them a percentage of their salary while they were on off-work status.

Additionally, we did have them seen by a toxicologist, the one that I mentioned in my testimony, Dr. Hillman, during the course of their off-work time.

Mr. JAMES. And workmen's compensation would have paid in any one of those cases, would they not, under Florida law if you had referred them to a specialist toxicologist? They could have had the best available in the area by your reference because of the workmen's compensation law of the State.

Dr. PENZELL. In addition to our care, that is correct, in this situation they did have access to a toxicologist or additional consultation in addition to our care; that is correct.

Mr. JAMES. Good, so there is some improvement. However, I do realize that we still have far to go.

I also visited a Farmers Home Administration housing unit during a dedication ceremony in Hastings, Florida, I believe. There were between 12 to 20 units which were very nich accommodations, as I am sure Mr. Brown will agree. However, I realize that there is just not enough of them. This is just touching the tip of the iceberg is what I think you would contend. Is that right, Mr. Brown? Yet, there are some and we are beginning to address these needs.

Mr. BROWN. Hastings, as you well know, has a high population of migrant farmworkers, and 12 is barely a beginning.

Mr. JAMES. Right.

Mr. BROWN. I would submit to you that housing development, those 12, from inception, it probably took 3 to 4 years to bring it to fruition. So the problem with that is the length of time that it takes to bring 12 units to closure.

Mr. JAMES. I personally would like to see many more of those units available, and I hope we can move in that direction, and I hope we will have funds for it.

I see some light at the end of the tunnel as far as these problems, but I am not suggesting to you that everything you have said doesn't have great merit and concern, but I think we have got some things in place, in other words, we are headed in the right direction. That is my only point. Whether they take care of 1 percent or a tenth of a percent, at least there are some mechanisms in effect that are now protecting farmworkers that didn't exist 30 years ago, or even 5 years ago, and I am glad to see that.

I want to thank you all for your testimony.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Ortiz has something to add to that.

Mr. ORTIZ. I would like to just make a couple of comments with regard to Mr. James' statement.

Mr. JAMES. Yes.

Mr. ORTIZ. You know, sometimes that light at the end of the tunnel is a train coming at you.

Mr. JAMES. I understand that.

Mr. ORTIZ. You have got to be careful.

Mr. JAMES. Don't get me wrong; I am concerned. I am concerned certainly for the workers, and the elderly workers, especially those that did not have withholdings taken out and don't even get the meager Social Security they might otherwise get, and especially those who can't get Medicare and Medicaid. It is very intimidating and scary for them and for this Nation as a whole.

If I might have the time, I would like to ask one more question. While you may not have exact figures, I am curious as to how many migrant workers we are dealing with that stay in the profession for their lifetime, in particular, within my State? There are a lot of people who go in and out of the profession; in other words, they may work in it 3 to 5 years, as you might have, Mr. Brown, at one time.

Mr. BROWN. I didn't work 3 or 5 years, I worked mostly my younger life and part of my adult life. You will find that, if you watch "Harvest of Shame," many of those people I personally know. West 57th Street did a follow-up on that, I guess, earlier this year, and it was found that most of those individuals shown in "Harvest of Shame" were still in that work, those that were able to continue, because a lot of them were in the early stages of their teenage years, so many of them are still there if they are physically able to continue.

Mr. JAMES. That is my question, though. What numbers are we dealing with?

I worked as a teenager in the fifties at a quarter an hour for 2 days. That doesn't make me a migrant. It doesn't make me subject to the same kind of problems. Someone may work 2 years or 4 years to get their college degree even, or their law degree, or become a doctor at some time. My question is, how many hard core workers are we talking about? That is the question, in the State, if you know.

Mr. BROWN. Between 75 to 80 percent of the people in the migrant stream will remain there for their entire lives.

Mr. JAMES. How many is that in Florida?

Mr. ORTIZ. We have approximately 6 million farmworkers, it is estimated, in the country.

Mr. JAMES. How about Florida, do you know, Mr. Brown? You are from Florida.

Mr. BROWN. I am from Florida. I would say between 75 to 80 percent of those stay in there. In Belle Glade alone—Belle Glade has a population of 20,000 regularly, but during the harvest season that population swells to somewhere between 50,000 and 60,000.

Mr. JAMES. Do you count those, for example, that are full-time residents of Mexico or some other country and work here for 4 or 5 months and then go back to Mexico, Jamaica, or any other country?

Mr. BROWN. The definition of a migrant, I think, is a person who goes so far away from their home that they can't return overnight. So if a person came to Florida and worked for 4 months or 6 months, then they would be counted as a migrant or a seasonal farmworker; there is a difference. So we have different definitions.

Mr. JAMES. In past years, there have been a large number of people that the various departments of the Government try to identify as migrants who are actually 12-months-a-year workers.

Mr. BROWN. Yes.

Mr. JAMES. Then there are those that live in another country but temporarily reside here, whom are also identified as migrants. Then there are the seasonals that might pick oranges in Florida and then seasonally, go to different States in the Union, and those are identified as migrants. Is there anywhere I can get a breakdown of the figures on those three different classifications to know what we are dealing with and the predominant wages and hours?

Mr. **Ortiz**. One of the problems we have is that farmworkers are not counted adequately as an occupation in the census. The decennial census of 1980, it is estimated, undercounted farmworkers by two thirds, or 65 percent of them were never counted. So they are, for all intents and purposes, a nonentity as far as funding is concerned, as far as political power is concerned.

Mr. **James**. Even the ones that aren't residents are supposed to be counted, but what happens is, some of them may have fraudulent green cards. Others don't have any green cards so we don't count them, but we need to count them all. I do believe the number of illegal aliens has been reduced substantially. Wouldn't you agree, Mr. Brown? Do we still have that problem in Florida?

Mr. **Brown**. I think we still do.

Mr. **James**. We do. So these individuals still present a need we have to respond to, but they are hard to count in that case.

Mr. **Brown**. Yes. I would like to respond to something you said about the 12 houses that have just been dedicated in Hastings. I think we are talking today about the aged, and normally when you develop 514, 515, 516, you are developing those for a work force, and the aged will be excluded from that housing because of the fact that they have completed their 25 to 30 years, but you are trying to provide for the work force. I think because we are here talking about the aged we want policies that will consider those who are in the twilight of their lives; they still must have a place to live.

Mr. **James**. So we need another program for that particular problem.

Mr. **Brown**. Not necessarily so.

Mr. **James**. Or change the rules?

Mr. **Brown**. I guess we want to make them a primary source also rather than secondary; they ought to be considered primary.

Mr. **James**. I want to thank you for assisting me in the testimony. This is an area that I am very concerned about, as I know that you are. Thank you.

Mr. **Brown**. Thank you, sir.

The **Chairman**. Thank you, Mr. James.

I would like to start off the questioning with Mr. Brown.

I was very interested in your description, Mr. Brown, of the services that your housing program provides. Can you describe for the committee the condition of housing outside of the housing that you provide, the condition of housing not only in Belle Glade but throughout the country?

Mr. **Brown**. I think that nearly 40 years ago, as I stated, the Congress developed a housing policy, but the fact that we are talking about those who are economically strapped, the condition of the housing for them is deplorable.

It has been stated that housing, for instance, in Palm Beach County is about 2,000 units per year behind, and by 1995 or somewhere in that area there will be such an exacerbated need for housing that we are not catching up.

Across the country, housing may be improving, but it is not improving for the population that we are trying to serve. For instance, in Palm Beach County the average cost of a house is $90,000. Some of the people that we are talking about might not make $90,000 in a lifetime.

The **Chairman**. Would you describe then housing for the migrant farmworker as being poor? Is it horrible, or is it good? What word would you use if you had to use only one word?

Mr. **Brown**. Poor.

The **Chairman**. Would that word "poor" describe housing that is worse than the poor housing in the general population?

Mr. **Brown**. I would think so.

The **Chairman**. We have established then the fact that the housing for the farmworker is poor, which means a lot worse than the poor housing for the general population. Is that correct, Mr. Brown?

Mr. **Brown**. For the general poor population.

The **Chairman**. That is correct, the general poor population, of course.

Mr. **Brown**. Yes.

The **Chairman**. You also said this: "I think the problem is even greater than housing." Health care, you said, is in critical condition. So here you have a very poor housing situation, and that is in an atmosphere where health care is in critical condition. How bad is health care for farmworkers?

Mr. **Brown**. I heard Dr. Penzell said he gets over 50,000 visits a year to his health clinic, and I would venture to say there are probably another 50,000 that never showed up. The problem is that farmworkers are normally in areas that are not urban; they are located many times far from the modern areas, and so health care issues many times just go unserved.

Dr. Penzell would probably be better able to address that than I, but I see it every day at health clinics that migrants can afford to go to or are allowed to go to. They may go there at 8 o'clock in the morning and sit there until 5 in the afternoon and never get seen.

The **Chairman**. Dr. Penzell, do you agree then that health care is critical?

Dr. **Penzell**. Health care is very critical in this population. The people that we are taking care of—and let me just say that I feel that migrant health centers, community health centers, are serving this job admirably.

However, for the people who are not able to gain access to our centers and centers like ours around the country, I have to believe that, for the most part, the base line standard of care is terrible, and I think the reason for that, in a lot of ways, is that people are afraid to go to doctors, they don't have the money, they may be in an area where there is no migrant and/or community health center, and a lot of what we would consider base line standard medical care for our families, our children, and our elders is just not done; base line medical things that we would consider normal in our everyday lives they are not getting.

The **Chairman**. All right. Dr. Penzell, you provide a health service; is that correct?

Dr. **Penzell**. Correct.

The **Chairman**. What complications do you have in monitoring farmworkers' health? For example, I would like to know, do farmworkers come under Medicaid? How do they pay for their service? Do they get free service? Do they come under SSI as one example? How do they finally pay for that health service that you provide?

Dr. **Penzell**. We are Federally funded under 2 Federal grants, a grant for migrant health centers and a grant for community health centers. That is our main operating funding. In addition, we also accept Medicaid and Medicare, the few patients in the community that may have private insurance, as well as, for patients who have no money and do not qualify for these other programs, our fees are adjusted on the basis of income.

The **Chairman**. Do farmworkers in general have Medicaid?

Dr. **Penzell**. Some of the farmworkers do have Medicaid. Some of their children, some of the older people, do have Medicaid, that is correct.

The **Chairman**. But still we have a situation where the farmworker works under adverse conditions. The use of pesticides, for example, is very injurious to anyone who comes in contact with them. I am told that, because of this, there is a high incidence of cancer. What are the real complications that arise as a result of the wide use of pesticides, that are being used today?

Dr. **Penzell**. Well, as I mentioned in my testimony, this is a very big question. We don't know a lot of the long-term consequences at this point. A lot of judicious studies and data have not been gained, and all we have is basically a lot of epidemiological information, a lot of cause and effect information, that is leading us to surmise that people who are chronically exposed to pesticides from the time that they are children through their adult life may have higher incidence of some of the illnesses that I mentioned in my testimony, various types of cancers and other skin problems.

The **Chairman**. But, Doctor, what are the things that we do know? I have been told that a farmworker is old at 40 or 45; I have been told that, as a result of his work, the farmworker in general has a higher incidence of certain kinds of cancers than the rest of the population. Do we know those things to be a fact?

Dr. **Penzell**. Well, I can say from my own personal experience in the years that I have been with my migrant and community health center that I do see people who, in their thirties and forties—if you will pardon the expression, they have the bodies of 60-year-olds. They have been browbeaten, they have arthritic conditions, multiple musculoskeletal type abnormalities that have been the culmination of many years of working in the fields.

In terms of when is a person old, I think that is certainly ordinarily a very difficult point to quantify. However, as I just said, I feel that the migrant farmworkers that I have been taking care of, certainly in their forties, would appear to have the physical conditions that we might be seeing ordinarily in 60-year-olds.

In reference to pesticides, we are not really sure of what this chronic low-level long-term exposure can do. Every once in a while, you have a situation like ours where you get a mass sudden poisoning, but part of the issue here is this chronic long-term exposure with not just one pesticide but many different pesticides. We don't know exactly what is going to happen in 20 or 30 years with any great certainty because records aren't kept. People themselves don't know what chemicals they have been exposed to. They don't know the quantity, they don't know the names. So if somebody were to come down with some type of cancer, you also have to hope that the doctor who is taking care of them will be able to say, "What you worked with a chemical?" or, "What age?" "How many years?" "what chemical were you working with?" A lot of these answers are not easily ascertained when the people are being taken care of.

The CHAIRMAN. What interests me is the effect of the problems of farmworkers on the individual. I have been told that a farmworker usually starts working at a very early age—3, 4, 5, 7 years old. What about child mortality? Is it high among the farmworkers?

Dr. PENZELL. Yes, it is. It is certainly higher than the national average in terms of perinatal mortality, and the reason for this, we have pointed out, most commonly that we have seen, is due to late entry into prenatal programs and prenatal care. That seems to be one of the large problems.

The CHAIRMAN. How widespread then is sterility or miscarriage in the farm community?

Dr. PENZELL. Miscarriage is seen, but that is certainly a difficult point to quantify, because under even the best of circumstances there is a percentage of pregnancies that will spontaneously abort, also known as miscarriage, in their first trimester, meaning the first 3 months. So although we can speculate that there may be cause and effect there, it is a difficult point to quantify.

The CHAIRMAN. All right.

Mr. Ortiz, the answers given in regard to the questions I have been asking have not been, in my opinion, as conclusive as I was hoping they would be. Mr. Ortiz, is that a correct assumption on my part?

Mr. ORTIZ. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. Can you elaborate on that?

Mr. ORTIZ. Well, we have very fragmented information even on things that we should be able to count, like the number of farmworkers that live here in this country. We are in the midst of a decennial census presently, and we know for a fact now that we are not going to get anywhere near the number of farmworkers counted that are supposed to be counted in this country during this census.

I was just yesterday with Mr. C. L. Kincannon, who is the deputy director of the Bureau of the Census here in Washington, D.C., discussing the fact that in 1980 the Census undercounted farmworkers by two-thirds, and I was pointing out that it appeared to us out in the field that this was going to recur in 1990. What I got for my opinion at that point was a lot of tea and sympathy but no action of any real merit.

So if we are talking about something that can happen, we have a visible body there that can be counted, and they are not counting them. They are the hardest to count, I will have to agree with Mr. Kincannon on that item, because of their isolation, their lack of visibility, their language barriers, cultural barriers, et cetera. The only place you can count them is in occupation is the most difficult place to count them, on the long form.

So if we are talking about medical things, as the doctor already pointed out, we have very, very skimpy information. I see no major surveys come across my desk telling me what the health conditions are of the young or the working or, more specifically in this case, the elderly.

I come from a family of farmworkers. My father was a farmworker. I went to work with him when I was 11 years old. I worked with him up to the age of 17. Then I went off to school. My dad was very sick many, many times during the time I worked with him. You know, you only judge by personal experiences. I don't see any focus, any energy, any will in bringing up, really, comprehensive data on the health of farmworkers and, more specifically, the older farmworker, or the retired farmworker, if you will.

The **Chairman**. Mr. Ortiz, you made a suggestion that we consider establishing an institute-like structure to centralize and coordinate information about the farmworker community. Would that be the type of mechanism that would establish a central location for the information that we are seeking with regard to the farmworkers?

Mr. **Ortiz**. It is my considered opinion, Mr. Chairman, that that would be a very good way of finding out or at least getting closer to the facts on the conditions of farmworkers. We know that they are in bad shape. How bad shape they are in we have very skimpy knowledge on.

The **Chairman**. Mr. Chapa, on the other hand, says what we ought to do is establish a migrant shelter program.

Will you describe that briefly again?

Mr. **Chapa**. Yes, Congressman. This was an idea fostered by the Housing Assistance Council. What we are recommending here in the migrant shelter program is, "shelter" also would be a generic term for housing. What we were trying to do was also support the effort that a census be taken of the migrant and seasonal farmworker population in this country on a county-by-county level and involving that national network of farmworker-community-based organizations and farmworker clinics, anybody that has direct contact with the farmworker population, including the State employment offices, to get a count, and then also to do a survey of the habitable housing available in an area, and then analyze that data, and then direct a Federal program to make sure that housing is available, be it in the home base area's ownership, in the user State's rental, even though it may be on a temporary basis, and for those areas especially that use high numbers of farmworkers that can be proven to have a scarcity of safe and decent housing, that a program be directed to establish housing, whether it is rental or permanent housing for, again, settle outs.

The **Chairman**. Mr. Chapa, Mr. Ortiz referred to the problem as one in which we don't have any correct data or any place we can get it with regard to the farmworker, he also referred to that community as the silent and often invisible community. What both of you, Mr. Ortiz and Mr. Chapa, have suggested is the formation of an organization within the Federal Government that will address itself to the problem.

You made, between the 2 of you, 4 suggestions. The establishment of an institute-like structure to centralize and coordinate information; that is number 1. Another was to consider the appointing of a select committee for farmworkers matters and that that would carry out investigative and oversight functions and so forth. The third one is the consideration of the creation of the office of a farmworkers' ombudsman; these are very closely related. Then comes the fourth recommendation of Mr. Chapa to create this migrant shelter program.

I was just wondering if it wouldn't be possible for the 2 of you to get together and to work out one recommendation as to what this committee can do to recommend to the Congress of the United States that there shall be established within the Department of Agriculture such a mechanism, but only one that will take care of the problems that you have addressed yourselves to. Would that be possible, Mr. Ortiz?

Mr. **Ortiz**. It is possible. You know, we have been advocating for these kinds of things for many, many years now.

Mr. Chairman, I want to state a specific problem that I can relate to very easily right now as it pertains to this ombudsman or this idea of formulating a select committee. Just last Saturday, my organization, the California Human Development Corporation, after much fighting in Federal court, was able to build 54 units of farmworker housing, 3-bedroom homes, town houses in Sutter County, California. We fought for 5 years to get that housing there, and we designated this last Saturday.

One of the things that occurs is 514, 515 housing, beautiful places, and older people can't live there. Now you know as well as I do that 95 percent of the farmworkers, at least in our State of California, are Hispanic. The extended family is a very important element in our life. Our parents, our aunts and uncles, et cetera, the nucleus of our family is very important to our way of living. Only farmworkers that work in farmwork can live in that housing. In other words, a retired farmworker who has worked all his or her life in farmwork cannot live in that housing.

Now I see this committee that would be formulated to focus in on that kind of problem day in and day out and see if we can punch home something that would change that kind of existence. The vast majority of the farmworkers are extended family type persons, and to have mom and pop, grandpa and grandma living in the same complex with the children, to me, is a good thing.

The **Chairman**. Gentlemen, I think that what we have established this morning are very important facts. We have established the fact that housing in regard to the farmworker is bad, and by that we mean that it is worse than bad housing for the general population. If it is worse than some of the housing that I have seen here in Washington, D.C., I can tell you, it is pretty bad. I didn't know there could be anything worse than this. I have been through some of the farms in California and elsewhere, and I agree that what I saw was worse.

The next thing that we established, I think, is the fact that health care is in a critical state.

Those are the things that have been established so far. But when I started to ask specific questions with regard to mortality, children's mortality, and other questions where the answers are readily available with regard to the general population, the answer that I got was, "Well, we don't have the data; we don't have the mechanism that gives us all of this." So the first thought that I had was to establish a mechanism within the Federal Government.

In order to do that, this committee has to make recommendations, based on your testimony, to the Department of Agriculture and then to the Congress of the United States. When we make such a recommendation, we have to be very specific as to what it is that we want. This is why I would like to have you, the experts, maybe get together and make that recommendation to us. What can we recommend to the Secretary of Agriculture? This is why I wanted the Secretary here this morning, so he could hear all of this, so that he would know that we are interested in recommending to him that something be done with regard to this problem.

The biggest problem that I can see right now—and we may be able to do something about it—is that of gathering the information. That should be easier than establishing good housing for the population or easier than establishing good health for everyone. It seems to me that would be the easiest thing of all, and yet we, the richest government in the world, can't afford to do that. So if you would help this committee in making that possible, we would greatly appreciate it.

Do you think, Mr. Ortiz and Mr. Chapa, that you will be able to make such a recommendation to us after both of you get together and work it out?

Mr. CHAPA. Mr. Chairman, I think we can, and perhaps one of the vehicles that has been set in motion for this is the National Task Force on Older Farm Workers, and I think, since many of us are members of that task force, we certainly will be able to draw upon the wealth of knowledge of the different State, national, and local organizations that we represent, and we certainly will make that effort.

I agree with you that this country, I think, has it within its power to get those answers. I think that we can come up with a cohesive set of recommendations for you. But I will caution you and warn you, as many of us who have worked in farmwork and who have worked for community organizations have seen year after year after year, the life of migrant farmworkers has been touched or not touched by so many Federal agencies.

That has been one of the problems that frustrates us at the local level, when the Department of Agriculture has its guidelines and definitions, HHS has its guidelines and definitions for Head Start and health programs, the Department of Labor has, and their statistics refute each other, and they use that against us. So I think this is one of the reasons we are calling for a cohesive census, a coordinated effort, a centralized location, and somebody that, quite frankly, at the Federal Government level will advocate for and be objective about farmworker problems and issues.

I have to say, as a person who has come in and out of farmworker services, because I have dealt with organizations in rural areas, and I used to deal with farmworker programs, and now I am dealing primarily with senior citizens programs, when I come back to conferences that deal with farmworker issues, it is unbelievable to me that we are still debating and discussing problems that we talked about in the sixties and the seventies. Although some progress has been made, farmworkers have never been a national priority, the numbers aren't there, and that is frustrating to us.

But I think in terms of coming up with a cohesive set of recommendations for you and the committee, we can.

The **Chairman**. What I would like is just one recommendation. I think I understand what the problem is in general. This is not the committee that has jurisdiction over that particular department and, therefore, cannot in any way legislate. We are not a legislative committee, we are a fact-finding committee, however, but we don't seem to be able to find the facts, and we don't find the facts because there is no place that gathers these facts.

You have a national task force that has been in session I don't know how long; they haven't come up with a recommendation of any kind. Maybe I should ask. How long has this task force been in operation, do you know, Mr. Brown?

Mr. **Brown**. Nineteen eighty-seven, wasn't it?

The **Chairman**. Nineteen seventy, wasn't it?

Mr. **Ortiz**. No, 1987. There are 3 of us here at the table that belong to that task force.

The **Chairman**. All right. You have been in session 2 years at least, but there is no recommendation yet. What I am trying to do is bypass, get some kind of recommendation, so we can send this to the Department of Agriculture and then to the Congress of the United States, and at least start something with regard to a fact-finding mechanism. Then, once we establish that, the matters of housing and health, we can continue to address ourselves to those problems. But, at the moment, I think that what we need is a fact-finding mechanism.

For example, if I were to ask how many pesticides are being regularly used in the field, to whom do I go? Whom do I ask that question of? Are there pesticides being used in the fields regularly? I think that there are. They are being used every day. But who is going to admit it unless we have an organization that specifically gathers that information and makes it available to the public? We in the Congress of the United States are part of that public.

We want to know also what is the life-span of a farmworker. What about the children, their mortality rate? What about the women's miscarriages? Do they get prenatal care, for example?, post-natal care? These things are very interesting to me, and they should be to the general public. Are these people being treated fairly? The answer I can give now with what little I know is no, they are not being treated fairly.

So the next thing is, how can we get them counted as part of the mainstream of our community and be treated humanely? At the present time, from the testimony I hear, they are not being treated humanely.

Is that about correct, Mr. Ortiz?

Mr. **Ortiz**. Yes, Mr. Chairman.

We have come up with a National Task Force on Older Workers paper here, a national position paper. It is a start. Certainly, again, the task force has been working. We have what I consider a product, perhaps, because of our meager resources, not the best we could come up with, but it is a start.

[The position paper follows:]

National Task Force on the Older Farmworkers

National Position Paper
March, 1990

Introduction

Older farmworkers are among the most impoverished members of society. They are often exposed to hazardous working conditions, pesticides, and debilitating stoop labor, and often live in grossly substandard housing that lacks indoor plumbing and heating. Because of these living and working conditions, their average life expectancy is estimated to be less than 50 years.

Older Farmworker Profile

Unlike younger counterparts who can still work an eight, ten, or twelve-hour day, many older farm laborers are unable to work at all. Most are economically impoverished. Many are ineligible for Social Security or federally-subsidized housing, and are too frail to join their families during harvest season migrations.

Older farmworkers include whites, blacks, Hispanics, Filipinos, Haitians, and other minority groups. Older farmworkers cannot be defined rigidly as age 65 and older given their shorter lifespans, harsh working conditions, and forced early retirement. Reports describing this group often define older farmworkers as those who are 45 and older. Statistical information available from the Bureau of the Census and the Department of Agriculture undercounts farmworkers of all ages, due in part to the timing and methods employed in the decennial census. Independent estimates indicate that two-thirds of all farmworkers were not counted in the 1980 Census. The Agricultural Work Force of 1987 (a report by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service) indicated there were 431,000 active farmworkers age 45 and older, constituting approximately 18 percent of all farmworkers. Of those age 45 and older, 73 percent did farm work only. This group had average annual earnings from farm work of $5,352 in 1987.

Housing

Rural areas have large numbers of elderly persons who need appropriate and affordable housing. In 1987, the poverty rate for the elderly was 11.1 percent in metropolitan areas, but 15.6 percent in non-metropolitan areas. Because of their poverty, many of these rural residents live in housing which is dilapidated and without basic amenities.

The Housing Assistance Council and the California Human Development Corporation have analyzed housing and demographic data collected by the Bureau of the Census for older farmworkers in several key states. Nationally, almost 34 percent of black farmworkers over age 65 and nearly 30 percent of black farmworkers between 55 and 64 live in units with incomplete plumbing. In Texas and Florida, and to a lesser extent, California, both black and Hispanic older farmworkers often live in housing without adequate plumbing. These are the conditions of the permanent homes of older farmworkers, rather than the temporary housing they might occupy while in the migrant labor stream. The temporary housing is usually worse in terms of overcrowding, lack of complete plumbing, and other problems.

The Federal Government Response

Many older people in rural areas need, and would be willing to use, housing rehabilitation assistance or help with moving to congregate units in their home communities. One resource for these types of assistance is the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. FmHA provides grants and loans for home repair under the Section 504 program as well as funds for newly constructed or rehabilitated, affordable rental housing under the Section 515 Program. Section 515 funds are earmarked for new construction where there is a lack of suitable rural rental housing with special design features for the elderly.

The agency also provides funds for farm labor housing. A new federal law now qualifies retired farmworkers for FmHA Section 514/516 farmworker housing, but because there are not enough units for working farmworker families, this law does not even begin to address the housing problems of older farmworkers.

In 1979, a model congregate housing demonstration project was initiated jointly by FmHA and the Administration on Aging (AOA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. A 1983 evaluation of this project found it to be successful, and in 1987 all of the original demonstration project sites were still functioning. In addition, other rural congregate projects have been established with FmHA Section 515 loans. To date, Section 515 projects have not been targeted for older farmworkers. No state or federal programs fully address the plight of older farmworkers.

The National Task Force on Older Farmworkers

The National Task Force on Older Farmworkers was established in 1988 to improve the living conditions of older farmworkers and their families. Comprised of older farmworkers; representatives of active and retired farmworker, housing, rural, religious, and aging organizations; and congressional staff; the Task Force expresses its concerns in four areas:

1. The need for greater public awareness of the plight of older farmworkers.

2. The need for more and better research and data on the needs of older farmworkers.

3. The need for more technical assistance to housing developers to create affordable and supportive housing for older farmworkers.

4. And the need to create and reform state and federal programs that can improve the living conditions for older farmworkers.

The Subcommittee on Federal and State Initiatives of the National Task Force on Older Farmworkers has prepared this national position paper on older farmworkers. The undersigned members of the National Task Force on Older Farmworkers respectfully submits the following recommendations to address the needs of older farmworkers.

Increased Appropriations

1. We strongly endorse increased appropriations for housing for migrant and seasonal farmworkers, with special emphasis for those who are elderly and disabled.

2. In order to adequately serve older farmworkers, nonprofit housing sponsors need adequate resources for staff and management both during the development phase and after projects actually go into operation. HUD and FmHA should provide adequate resources at all phases of development and operation so that nonprofit organizations are encouraged to provide services to retired and disabled farmworkers.

Congressional Hearings

3. We encourage Congress to hold hearings on issues affecting active, retired and disabled migrant and seasonal farmworkers, especially related to housing and federal benefits.

Research and Data

4. Because of the very limited data available on migrant and seasonal farmworkers, particularly elderly and disabled farmworkers, and the level and extent of their housing needs, we believe that the Secretary of Agriculture and the Bureau of the Census should target research on the needs of this population.

5. Due to the potential adverse effect of displacing the domestic labor force engaged in agricultural labor, H2-A foreign workers should continue to be excluded from the FmHA definition of a farmworker.

6. A "Rural Homeless" initiative should be established to finance nonprofit organizations to build and operate temporary housing for migrant workers and their families during the migrant season and for other rural homeless during the rest of the year.

Technical Assistance

7. We encourage the adoption of technical assistance and training provisions for rural areas. We believe that the FmHA should provide comprehensive training for the following groups and subject areas:

- nonprofit developers on all phases of housing development;
- sponsors of farmworker housing;
- homeowners and building crew personnel on proper maintenance and minor repair of home, mechanical, and electrical systems; and
- FmHA staff in targeted state and district offices on farm labor housing grant and loan programs, and the process for grant or loan approval and support.

Accountability

8. Benefits programs such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI), food stamps, and housing should conduct outreach to older and disabled farmworkers and should process applications for assistance in a timely manner. Special efforts should be made to eliminate language barriers to allow full participation in these programs.

9. In order to ensure the efficiency and timely processing of housing grants or loan applications, we urge that time limits be imposed on FmHA for the completion of certain actions, including pre-application, application review, environmental assessment, and appraisals.

Sensitive Housing Design

10. For future development efforts, FmHA and HUD should encourage the use of housing designs which are more sensitive to family social structures, good management and upkeep, and supportive social services.

Home Repairs and Weatherization

11. The maximum amount of grant money allowed per house for low-income older homeowners in the FmHA Section 504 program is not adequate to remove health and safety hazards. Therefore, we endorse an increase in the maximum amount of grant funds allowed per house for a low-income older homeowner to cover the costs of weatherization, repair, and preservation. We also urge that, for retired and disabled farmworkers, the age of eligibility for the Section 504 grant program be lowered to 55 years.

FmHA 514/516 Programs

12. Retired and disabled farmworkers have been excluded as primary recipients in FmHA's Section 514 and 516 housing programs. We believe that funding the federal government housing programs should be expanded so that both active and retired farmworkers can have access to farm labor housing.

HUD 202 and FmHA 515 Programs

13. In HUD Section 202 and FmHA Section 515 projects for the elderly, we recommend that priority be given to sponsors who locate in areas with high concentrations of migrant and seasonal workers where retirement brings a heightened risk of homelessness.

Better Coordination

14. We believe that greater coordination is needed between FmHA and the Department of Labor on housing and related services provided to active, retired, and disabled farmworkers. An annual memorandum of understanding with specific plans of action to serve these groups should be negotiated between the departments.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the National Task Force on Older Farmworkers believes that the implementation of these recommendations would go a long way toward meeting the needs of one of America's most disadvantaged groups. We urge prompt congressional and administrative action so that those who labor to provide the nation's food will no longer suffer from the neglect of their basic needs.

Mr. ORTIZ. One of the things that you just mentioned—you know, Mr. Chapa and I just met this morning, but now that I know him, I am going to be working with him, and, I hope, Mary Hanlon from your staff will be working with us also to develop these recommendations and these ideas even further.

My problem right now with the whole set-up is that we have a very insensitive and indifferent administration to these kinds of problems. I couldn't believe the situation that existed for me yesterday. I was treated very kindly by the Bureau of the Census. They listened intently, they agreed with me, everything I said was kopasetic, but in the final analysis, Mr. Chairman, they are not going to do a thing about counting farmworkers in this decennial census.

The CHAIRMAN. All right. Let's talk a little bit about that in the few minutes we have left. You told the committee that in the last census of 1980 at least 65 percent were not counted.

Mr. ORTIZ. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. Now these were people that were asked questions, and in that census—incidentally, I just filled in mine the other day—they asked you all kinds of questions. They wanted to know what your house looks like, how many baths—everything. Had they counted the 65 percent they left out, they would know a little bit more about their housing situation, they would probably know more about their health, know about all of these things that are revealed when a proper census is taken.

What do you think is going to happen with this census? Are we going to miss 65 percent of them again?

Mr. ORTIZ. I challenged Mr. Kincannon yesterday. I told him I thought things were slightly improved but I still felt that at least 50 percent of the farmworkers in our country would not be counted, and he said, "I can't refute that," but, again, the gesture of, "I don't know what we can do about this," and that's the end of it.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, as you know, in the State of California during the 1980 census, the count was not a correct count and the whole matter had to go to court, which means again that the census in 1980 was not accurate, and if it is not accurate this time, if 50 percent are going to be missed altogether, then we do need the agency we are talking about, an agency that devotes itself to the gathering of information with regard to the farmworking community? Can we establish this as something we really need? Mr. Ortiz, do you think that would help?

Mr. ORTIZ. My mother used to always say, Mr. Chairman, the last thing that dies is hope, and we are still very hopeful that things will change for farmworkers.

I was active during the Carter administration. I was given funding, we called it the National Farmworker Policy Project, and we worked on these very matters diligently, and we failed. We were at the tail end of the Carter administration, and when that happened we had to deal with a new administration that was not receptive and very indifferent to our way of thinking and dealing. So we have survived to this point, but we still have the problem of getting accurate information.

I feel that if we have good information on the plight and the situation not only for the older farmworker but for all farmworkers, whether they be the young or the middle-aged, then we will have a club with which to convince the Congress of this country that real changes have to be made, but we have to focus on that. It is a special and unique community. We cannot do it in the normal fashion that it is done in this country, we have to really focus in on it. Otherwise, we won't get the information necessary.

The **Chairman**. Dr. Penzell, do you think it is advisable to have this committee make a recommendation the Department of Agriculture and to the Congress of the United States that such a mechanism be established? Is that good?

Dr. **Penzell**. Yes, Mr. Chairman. I feel that it will at least begin to help us collect information on a national level in terms of what is going on with all the farmworkers from all the various aspects that we have discussed this morning. I feel that the collation of information is a key issue in determining exactly what is going on, specifically from my point of view, with health care in reference to the issues that you have raised, perinatal mortality, child mortality, pesticide long-term effects, and other things that we are seeing on a daily basis in our organizations, and, from my point of view in the health care field, I think that any initiative towards that end is certainly worthwhile.

The **Chairman**. Mr. Brown, what do you think of that?

Mr. **Brown**. I concur with that. Without the information, we will never be able to actually convince or to prove the things that we in the field are actually seeing and experiencing.

I would strongly recommend that we spend our energies on coming up with some type of information demographics that will prove that there are infants out there dying, that health care is a problem, housing is a problem. I would gladly sit on a committee to work towards that.

The **Chairman**. Thank you, sir.

I have 3 more items I would like to discuss, and then we will adjourn. I think we have established various facts. One of those that is very interesting is the fact that only 2 percent of farmworkers collect Social Security and the reason for that is that they don't live long enough. Why don't they live long enough? Because housing is in critical condition, their housing is bad, and everything else is bad. Therefore, they don't live long enough, so they don't collect Social Security.

We have also heard and established that education programs only reach 10 percent of the migrant families. What happens to the other 90 percent?

If I were to try to get some factual information with regard to that, I wouldn't know where to call, because there is no place that collects it, from the testimony I have heard, so there is no agency any place, and this is why it is so important to have such an agency. So in this hearing we have established certain facts.

Do you have any questions at all?

Mr. **Pallone**. No, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The **Chairman**. Mr. Pallone is a member of the committee who is also very interested in the field of not only immigration and health but in the problems of the aging as a whole. We are very happy to have him as a member of the committee.

I will continue with the point that I wanted to make, and that is while we have established all these things, we still are hoping to establish the mechanism that will try to be of service insofar as information is concerned.

One thing, Mr. Ortiz, that interested me in your testimony is the fact that there is an amnesty program. I think the only good thing about the immigration bill is that there is an amnesty program, but there is a lot of bad in it, more bad than good. In fact, we wrote into law the separation of families.

Anyone who is eligible for amnesty may have his wife and children who came in the day after, and therefore they are subject to deportation now, and now they are being asked to sign a voluntary deportation paper that will not only reveal these people who came in the day after but will subject them to deportation any time at the will of the director of the Department or no later than one year. I think that is bad, the separation of families is bad.

But one thing that interests me is that in the educational services the program is grossly inadequate and there is no assistance of any consequence given the States. That was one of the items debated during that amnesty program. I said at the time that the States should be reimbursed, and they were not. I said the families should not be separated, and they are. I said the people in this hemisphere should be treated the same way as Europeans. We have recently passed a law where the people coming from Ireland, for example, become eligible for citizenship the moment they set foot on land in the United States, but not people in this hemisphere. I think that is most inadequate.

Mr. Ortiz, what has been your experience with regard to the amnesty program?

Mr. Ortiz. In California—I can only speak to that State because that is where I work—the largest number, 53 percent of the SAW's, the Special Agricultural Workers, were legalized in the State of California, so we have very large numbers there to deal with.

The SLIAG—State Legalization Impact Assistance Grant—money in California with reference to the SAW's, we have had to fight our way through the halls of Sacramento to get the local legislature to recognize the SAW's should have the same rights as the pre-1982's. So now, in my rural communities where I work and service the farmworkers, we are now giving classes in English and civics, adult education, and other kinds of educational services to the SAW's.

In the law, the Congress did not recognize the SAW's, but we on the State level have forced the issue and have been able to get them to allow us to bring them in. I have over 1,500 students right now in my service area receiving English as a second language and civics classes so that they, too, can become citizens of this country. That has been a positive experience.

What is happening right now with my 1,500 students, though, I am in the hole about $200,000. I have been fighting Sacramento saying the money that you are providing us, which is $2.75 per hour per enrollee, is not sufficient to meet the educational needs and overhead needs—teachers, et cetera—so we have been fighting. Los Angeles, for example, has the same problem. They have 60,000 students in Los Angeles County, and they are something like $3.5

to $4 million in the hole. So we are in Sacramento right now, trying to convince the State Department of Education to give us at least $5 an hour. That is, I think, teetering. I think we might just win that one, too, Mr. Chairman.

The real problem I see is the separation of the families. Really, that digs in deep. To give you an example, in Sebastopol, California, we have a class there in one of the wineries close to Sebastopol. We have 38 students there. Eight of them are not there legally. We have "la esposa," "el primo" or "hijo/hija;" we have them there trying to avail themselves of the services. The documented or legalized person is there, and they will not stay there unless we allow the partner to come in with them. So we have cut a political deal with them, and we are allowing them to stay in there. Now, what becomes of that is, I don't know when we are going to be rated or whatever that entails, but that is the way of it. So 30 of our students are being paid for, but 8 of them are there because they want to be there, they want to learn the language, they want to be part of the community but, to this point, are not able to get their papers.

The CHAIRMAN. Gentlemen, these are all problems that affect the farmworkers, the young, the very young, and also the old, and I think that a great deal more has to be done to take care of the problem.

We agree what is lacking for Federal and State planners, for public policy makers, for service administrators, and for providers is to have a centralized and coordinated data collection agency that would devote its time to that specific purpose.

Then also, in establishing the other great need, we find that not only the elderly are affected but children as well. We have a tremendous problem then that we have to address ourselves to, and we hope we can do that as we work together.

May I thank you, Mr. Brown, Dr. Penzell, Mr. Ortiz, and Mr. Chapa, for your testimony. What we will do is analyze it, we will write a report, and that report will be made available to each and every one of you and whoever wants to read that report when it is published. That will be in about 30 days.

Thank you very much, and the meeting is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 12:00 noon, the hearing was adjourned.]

APPENDIX

OVERVIEW OF FEDERAL STATISTICS ON U.S. FARMWORKERS

Prepared by
Select Committee on Aging
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

APRIL 1990

Examination of existing investigated Feeral statistics on farmworkers in the United States. Five major documents are evaluated below in terms of available data and relative reliability:

(1) 1980 CENSUS OF POPULATION - The published reports from Chapter C of the 1980 Census of Population, conducted by the Bureau of the Census provide some data on farmworkers.

AVAILABLE DATA: The U.S. summary volume and the individual State volumes of Chapter C present occupations of employed persons aged 16 years and older. "Farmworkers and related occupations" are a separate category within the occupational distribution. This category includes "farm, marine life, cultivation, and nursery workers; groundkeepers and gardeners; animal caretakers; and graders, sorters and inspectors of agricultural products."

The data presented "farmworkers and related occupations" by sex, race and Hispanic ethnicity -- a term used to denote persons of Spanish origin or descent. Information was also given separately for the total United States, urban and rural areas, standard metropolitan statistical areas, and four regions (Northeast, North Central, South and West).

RELIABILITY: The 1980 census data on farmworkers are from a sample of approximately 19 percent of U.S. households. The occupational and employment data in one section of the census referred either to jobs held during the" reference week" or to most recent employment. While the number of households sampled was large, many farmworkers were not working in March, when the census was taken, and therefore, may not have been counted.

(2) CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE - The Census Bureau conducts a quinquennial Census of Agriculture by mailing questionnaires to "agricultural operations satisfying the farm definition of $1,000 or more in agricultural sales."

AVAILABLE DATA: Some data are collected from a sample of farms and some from all farms enumerated. Data are published for the total United States, as well as for individual States and counties.

RELIABILITY: After the 1982 census, sample data were published on numbers of farms with hired labor and numbers of laborers, for the Nation and by State and county but in 1987, the farm laborers item was eliminated from the census forms.

(3) AGRICULTURAL WORK FORCE - In 1985 and 1987, the Census Bureau included an Agricultural Work Force Supplement in its December Current Population Survey (CPS). Before 1985, this biennial supplement was called the Hired Farm Working Force Survey.

AVAILABLE DATA: The Agricultural Work Force Supplement gathers data on hired farmworkers, unpaid farmworkers, and farm operators. The earlier supplement collected data only on the first of these three groups. The categories include:

> hired farmworkers in terms of race and ethnicity, sex and age; years of education; major agricultural activity; employment/labor force status; days of farmwork; and average 1987 earnings

unpaid farmworkers in terms of race and ethnicity, sex and age; years of education; employment/labor force status; number of days worked; and major agricultural activity.

"Hired farmworkers" are defined as "persons 14 years and older in the civilian noninstitutional U.S. population at the time of the survey who did any farm work for cash wages or salary at any time in the year, even if only for one day." "Unpaid farmworkers" are" persons, other than farm operators, 14 years and older in the civilian noninstitutional U.S. population at the time of the survey who worked on a farm, ranch, or nursery without receiving cash wages and salary."

RELIABILITY: Data on Hispanic subgroups (for example, Mexicans and other Central Americans) are not presented, nor are data on Haitians or Asians. Vital statistics are also not presented. The same methodological weaknesses of the Hired Farm Working Force Survey characterize the Agricultural Work Force Supplement to the Current Population Survey. In particular, although the CPS sample size is approximately 57,000 households, the number of households with farmworkers is far smaller. Generally, the smaller a sample is, the greater is the possibility of erroneous estimates. Small sample size also means that State and local data are unavailable. Further, the survey occurs in a single month --December -- when most respondents are not engaged in farm work. They are, nevertheless, asked to recall any such work done during the past year, thus increasing the potential for response errors.

(4) EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS - The CPS also collects monthly labor force data, which are published by the U.S. Department of Labor in Employment and Earnings.

AVAILABLE DATA: Table 22 of this publication presents a detailed occupational classification that includes a separate "farmworkers" category, and it disaggregates total U.S. farmworkers by percent Black and Hispanic, but not by age and race or age and non-Hispanic ethnicity. Table 56 gives median weekly earnings of farmworkers by number of workers and sex only.

RELIABILITY: Due to limitations of the Current Population Survey sample, Employment and Earnings includes little subnational data and no such data on farm workers. No vital statistics are presented. "Farmworkers" are defined as in the 1980 census, and occupations refer to jobs held during the survey week.

(5) FARM LABOR - The U.S. Department of Agriculture conducts quarterly sample surveys of the agricultural workforce.

AVAILABLE DATA: Farm Labor, the publication resulting from these surveys, provides information about three States (California, Florida and Hawaii) and 15 regions. Data include: numbers of farmworkers (disaggregated by self-employed, unpaid and hired); method of pay for hired farmworkers (hourly rate, piece rate, or other); and wage rates by type of hired farmworker (field, livestock, field and livestock, supervisory and other). Farmworkers are not disaggregated by age, sex, race or ethnicity and vital statistics are not presented.

"Hired farmworkers," are defined as doing agricultural work for pay for at least one hour during the survey week. The definition includes paid family members, but excludes crew workers and other agricultural service employees who work for a fee or on contract.

RELIABILITY: Estimates presented in Farm Labor are derived from "multiple frame probability surveys":

> The surveys utilize two sampling frames -- a list frame and an area frame. The list sample is a stratified random sample of producers likely to have hired farm workers. A probability sample from the area frame is used to estimate (data) for any employers not on the list. The multiple frame approach assures all employers are represented by the combined samples.

The sample size is not large enough to allow for statistically reliable estimates for each State.

CONCLUSION

The Committee finds most reliable data from David Lillesand et al, An Estimate of the Number of Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers in the United States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, developed for the Legal Services Corp., in 1977. This report estimates that there are 3.5 to 5 million farmworkers.

RECOMMENDATION

A reliable Federal method for counting farmworkers by age, sex, race, etc. is essential to the fair and equal treatment of United States citizens in this occupation.

ASSOCIATION OF FARMWORKER OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMS' TESTIMONY ON THE NEEDS OF ELDERLY FARMWORKERS

Submitted to the House Select Committee on Aging

May 23, 1990

The Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs (AFOP), formed in 1972, is the national membership organization of non-profit organizations and state agencies who utilize the Department of Labor's Job Training Partnership Act Title IV Section 402 program funds to provide seasonal farmworkers, migratory and non-migratory, with education, job training, and other forms of assistance in finding full-time employment both within and outside of agriculture. We are the national federation of farmworker training, employment and service organizations and our members operate programs in 48 states and Puerto Rico.

Located in Washington, D.C. near Capitol Hill, AFOP helps coordinate all the services available to state farmworker programs, provides technical assistance and support to member organizations, acts as a unified voice for farmworker organizations on a national level, serves as a liaison between state farmworker programs and the federal government and Congress and provides its members and other farmworker-related organizations with a monthly newsletter covering changes in the farmworker community. AFOP does not represent small family farm owners or agricultural industry - we represent the hired workers in agriculture, those who are out picking and harvesting in the fields. This testimony is submitted for inclusion into the official record.

Thirty years after Edward R. Murrow's shocking "Harvest of Shame" documentary on CBS, the working conditions for farmworkers have not changed. The group bearing the brunt of this lack of change are older farmworkers. These people, promised a better life in the decade following the documentary, are now much older and they are still living in the same conditions as they did 30 years ago.

The situation for older farmworkers is exacerbated because farmworkers in general do not age at the same rate as workers in other industries. Years of back breaking toil in the fields, along with years of exposure to pesticides, inadequate field sanitation, minimal health benefits and a lack of basic labor standard protections have taken their toll on the elderly farmworker.

The years of stoop and hand harvesting labor creates back problems, muscle trauma and disabling arthritis. Only now are we starting to learn the effects of extended pesticide exposure on the skin, the central nervous system, the reproductive system, and the respiratory system. Farmworkers also experience the highest incidence of job-related injuries and illnesses of any occupation. The entire farm labor force generally turns over every 10 to 12 years. No one retires from farmwork. Retirement is an unknown luxury for most farmworkers. Most individuals who remain as farmworkers are forced to work until they die.

Although elderly farmworkers are eligible for Medicaid, they are trapped by state residency laws because of the migratory nature of their work. Under Medicaid regulations, a person's "temporary absence" from a state is allowed, and a person may choose to extend coverage to a different state. However, if services are rendered in a different state, eligibility is forfeited. Despite the need for farmworkers to migrate, no special consideration is given from state to state in the provision of medical services. While Migrant Health programs help fill in the gaps of Medicaid, the demand for services far outweighs the available supply. So health problems that could have been taken care of with immediate proper medical attention are exacerbated by the strenuous nature of farmwork.

The National Labor Relations Act, which establishes rules for labor activities among employers, workers, and labor organizations excludes agricultural workers. These standards include child labor, civil rights, health and safety, housing, insurance and compensation, labor contractor and worker recruitment, labor relations ans collective bargaining, pesticides and agricultural chemicals, transportation, and wages and hours. There are 42 categories under these headings and the general U.S. workforce is covered by these standards.

However, farmworkers are only covered by 20 to 40 percent of these employment standards, according to *Federal and State Employment Standards and U.S. Farm Labor*. For example, 5 special exemptions to U.S. federal child labor laws allow children as young as 10 to work in the fields, including during school hours, and 16 states have no labor provisions specifically protecting farmworker children. Some states do have child labor law provisions, but their applicability to agricultural workers is more narrow than those of non-agricultural workers.

Despite the dangers of farmwork, farmworkers rarely, if ever, receive disability payments. In 15 states, there are no job safety standards applicable to agriculture. Only four states provide full unemployment insurance for farmworkers and 14 states provide full workers compensation. Farmworkers are given only limited forms of unemployment insurance in most states. Over half of state minimum wage laws do not apply to all agricultural employees. Labor laws also exclude hand harvest workers from receiving the minimum wage.

Because of these factors, farmworkers are considered elderly when they reach their forties. Most do not even live to see age 65, which is when workers in other industries are preparing to retire. Since pensions predominately do not exist for older farmworkers, they cannot afford to retire, because most of them are not eligible for Social Security.

Until 1989, the Internal Revenue Code excluded the wages of agricultural workers from required income tax withholding. Under the Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1989, agricultural employers must now file taxes if they employ a person and pay wages in excess of $2,500. But unscrupulous crew leaders and/or employers have, in the past, kept the Social Security deduction form the working wages and never reported the deductions nor paid the matching contributions. The farmworkers find out these facts only if and when they file for SSI benefits. There is little recourse for the workers because often the crew leaders are either dead or not locatable.

Congress has made some provisions for farmworkers. Because they recognized that farmworkers have unique and special job training needs, they established under the Job Training Partnership Act the Title IV, Section 402 program to provide employment and training administered at the national level. Working with a funding level of only $69 million in fiscal year 1990, §402 program operators do an admirable job of trying to solve the unique and varied problems of farmworkers.

Program resources have been stretched to the limit in the past few years due to a string of natural disasters that have devastated the farmworker community, along with the influx of over 1 million Special Agricultural Workers (SAWs) who were made eligible for services under the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986. The Title IV §402 program's appropriations have not been adjusted to deal with any of these unexpected changes.

Even with inadequate funds, the Title IV §402 organizations have moved beyond offering the traditional assessment, counselling and employment and training services for farmworkers. All have developed non-traditional, supplemental education programs to deal with the low educational levels of farmworkers and offer an array of other initiatives to meet special needs. Areas covered in these programs include:

- adult basic education and GED preparation outside formal classrooms and traditional school hours;
- dropout prevention for youths;
- education programs to prevent substance abuse;

- English As A Second Language and other cross-cultural training; and
- health and AIDS education.

Organizations have also created motivational/self-help development training programs to tackle the low self-esteem experienced by some farmworkers. Some program operators are becoming increasingly involved with economic development projects, entrepreneur/job creation programs, and other innovative job training. These efforts are targeted to focus on creating jobs in very rural, isolated areas with little or no alternative employment besides agriculture.

For years, farmworkers have been forced to live in inadequate substandard housing. This housing holds several families and most lack indoor plumbing and electricity and fosters exposure to the elements.

A small U.S.D.A. Farmer's Home Administration (FmHA) program exists, but priority is given to employed families, with older farmworkers given last priority. While FmHA provides grants and loans to farmowners, farm associations, public and non-profit organizations, or states to build low-rent housing for farmworkers, there is always a lack of available units. Older farmworkers are caught in the middle. Most older farmworkers are not eligible for non-farmworker targeted public senior housing because they are not old enough. In order to begin helping older farmworkers, there needs to be a different "meaning of aging," a more accommodating legal definitions of aging, and another view of gerontology and geriatrics as it applies to farmworkers.

The *Hired Farm Working Force Report*, last published in 1983 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service, outlines some general facts of life for older farmworkers. They include:

- Of 2,595,000 hired farmworkers (both seasonal and migrant) in 1983, 17 percent were age 45 or older and 9 percent were age 55 and older;
- older migrant farmworkers were a large proportion of the total migrant population. Of 226,000 migrants in 1983, 24 percent were age 45 or older and 6 percent were at least 55 years old;
- 46 percent of male farmworkers age 55 to 64 worked 150 or more days annually. Among female farmworkers in the same age group, 40 percent did 150 or more days of farmwork in 1983; and
- farmworkers age 55 to 64 have total annual median earnings of only $4,470, and those 65 and over have only $962 in median earnings.

One reason why it can be difficult to help farmworkers is a lack of precise demographic data. Although outdated, one of the more reliable data sources on farmworkers was a study commissioned by the Legal Services Corporation in 1977 entitled *An Estimate of the Number of Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers in the United States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico*. Existing federal statistical data currently gathered on farmworkers includes:

1. **1980 Census of Population** - Chapter C of the Census provides information on the occupations of employed persons aged 16 years and older. "Farmworkers and related occupations" are a separate category within the occupational distribution. The reliability of the Census data is questionable because the farmworker data is analyzed from a sample of approximately 19 percent of U.S. households. According to a 1985 U.S.D.A. Economic Research report entitled *Counting Hired Farmworkers*, as many as two-thirds of the U.S.' hired farmworkers may not have

been counted in the 1980 Census because they were not working on farms in March, when Census forms were distributed. Although outreach efforts for the 1990 Census have improved, it is expected that the undercount of agricultural workers will still remain as high as 50 percent.

2. **Census of Agriculture** - The Census Bureau conducts a quinquennial Census of Agriculture by mailing questionnaires to "agricultural operations satisfying the farm definition of $1,000 or more in agricultural sales." Some data are collected from a sample of farms and some from all farms enumerated. After the 1982 Census, sample data were published on numbers of farms with hired labor and numbers of laborers, but in 1987, the farm laborers item, the only item that was used specifically to count farmworkers, was deleted from the census forms.

3. **Agricultural Workforce** - In 1985 and 1987, the Census Bureau included an Agricultural Work Force Supplement in its December Current Population Survey (CPS). Before 1985, the biennial supplement was called the *Hired Farm Working Survey*. It gathers data on hired farmworkers, unpaid farmworkers, and farm operators. The survey collects information on race, ethnicity, sex, age, years of education, employment/labor force status, number of days worked, and major agricultural activity. However, data on Hispanic and Asian subgroups nor their vital statistics are not presented. And although the CPS sample size is approximately 57,000 households, the number of households with farmworkers is far smaller, which increases the possibility of erroneous information. Most importantly, the survey occurs in December, when most respondents are not engaged in farmwork.

The last year the data was collected for this survey was 1987, and the report was not released until 1989.

4. **Employment and Earnings** - The CPS also collects monthly labor force data, which are published by the U.S. Department of Labor. The publication has a detailed occupational classification that includes a separate "farmworker" category, and it disaggregates total U.S. farmworkers by percent Black and Hispanic, but not by age and race or age and non-Hispanic ethnicity.

The *Hired Farm Working Force Report* has not been published since 1983, because it was replaced by other measures. Federal and state planners, public policy makers, service administrators and providers do not have a centralized and coordinated collection apparatus to analyze farmworker data.

In order to improve the bleak outlook for older farmworkers, the Association offers the following recommendations:

- pass or amend legislation which would provide labor standard protections for farmworkers which are equal to those provided for all other workers;
- establish setasides for older farmworkers under both Title V of the Older American's Act and the 3 percent setaside for older workers under JTPA Title II-A for programs to be administered by Title IV §402 programs;
- eliminate the current federal child labor waiver provisions, remembering that the child farmworker of today is the elderly farmworker of tomorrow;
- establish an institute-like structure which would include national farmworker program networks such as AFOP, to centralize and coordinate badly-needed information and data about the farmworker population, such as a Farmworker Census;

- appropriate fair and equitable shares of available federal monies for the provision of services across the board to the farmworker population;

- improve coordination and collaboration among federal agencies that provide services to all farmworkers;

- place stricter monitoring on farmers' use of pesticides.

We thank you for this opportunity to comment on this very important matter. The Association stands ready to assist in carrying out the recommendations which we have offered based on your request.

HOUSING FOR ELDERLY FARMWORKERS

Submitted by
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INTRODUCTION

Immokalee, Fla
3/2/90

She was bending painfully to pick up an aluminum can in the ditch. She carried a plastic bag filled with throw away aluminum pie dishes and soda cans and was dressed in a mass of color, mainly orange. Her name was Louise Hall. She was 65 years old and was born in Dansville, Georgia and has worked all her life. At first she cleaned, ironed and did kitchen work for wealthy families in northern Florida. But in 1941 she began her long career in farm work. She picked tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, and oranges in the warm winters in Florida and then would go to Michigan, New York, or Delaware in the summers and autumns to do cherries, apples, potatoes and beans. She would be in the fields today but for the arthritis in her fingers, arms and legs. She prays that she will not lose the use of her hands since she needs to pick up cans in the dump or along the side of the roads of Immokalee, Florida in order to add income to her social security of $180 a month. She lives in a mobile home with a friend of many years who does domestic work for a wealthy family in Naples, Florida. Two teenagers and a nine year old also live in the trailer. While Louise owned a small home, it is currently under dispute as to whether Louise was renting it or had agreed to sell it for $10,000 to its current occupant. All monthly payments have been held by the occupant's attorney pending court resolution.

Immokalee, Fl
3/21/86

Maude Eldridge just moved into a one room shack on north 7th Street in Immokalee. There is no indoor plumbing but she and her husband are used to that. They were just asked to leave another shack in the north end of Immokalee because the housing inspector cited the landlord for violations of the new county housing code ordinance since among other things, it too had outdoor toilets and showers. Maude is 63 years old. She was born in Mississippi and was raised in Arkansas but has come to work in Immokalee, Florida since 1969. She picked tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers and squash and if lucky got a packing house job of grading and packing these vegetables. Besides the hot sun, she minded field work since it meant lugging a heavy bucket. In 1983 she had a stoke but she has recovered and is able to supplement her $76 a month social security and that of her husband's, $139 a month, by picking up aluminum cans from the trash around Immokalee.

The Eldridge first shack lies behind these outdoor facilities

Immokalee, Fl
3/21/90

ELDERLY FARMWORKERS AND HOUSING NEEDS

Like all the poor, most elderly farmworkers face the housing crises of high rents, substandard, overcrowded household units or else, if an owner, rising taxes, deteriorating, and overcrowded households. Farmworkers have the additional problem of low social security benefits since farmworkers in their working years received low wages and often were paid in cash with no pay-in by employers for their social security.

A. Problems in Home Ownership

Farmworkers who own decent homes in and around Immokalee, usually bought their home through the Farmers Home Administration's 502 homeownership program. The program could serve the elderly better if Congress would

1. increase funding for the 502 program. Moneys are needed particularly for site development. Rural areas often just cannot meet the criteria. For those lots and construction funds which are available, demand continually exceeds available funds. Hundreds of eligible families are on the waiting list for a home.

2. change the allowable deduction for elderly home owners in the 502 program so that they could get reduced mortgage payments and an increase in interest credit. For many years the deduction for an elderly person has been $400. There needs to be an increase in this deduction so that elderly poor can get interest credit. Other deductions have been adjusted over the years to match inflation; the deduction for elderly has not been adjusted. In addition, there ought to be a deduction for elderly who face medical expenses. Retired farmworkers on fixed income are often paying medicine bills which make the mortgage payments very difficult.

3. protect those 502 homes which have been foreclosed so that eligible elderly families can purchase them. There needs to be a priority and special eligibility criteria for elderly and non-profit corporations which are serving the elderly since these households are unable to get bank financing for other types of mortgages. More affirmative steps need to be taken to insure that low income families have a priority as purchasers. Whoever is handling the resale, FmHA or brokers need to take effective means to insure that eligible low income people know these homes are available for purchase, and are assisted in the application process.

B. Problems in Rehabilitation

If the elderly farmworkers own their home, it is often a deteriorating older unit because they lack the income to make repairs. Because of a lack of education, they are ripe for the unscrupulous fly-by-night home repair scams where salesmen promise repairs for no money down and "low" monthly installments and then get owners to sign sales contracts and mortgages for what turns out to be shabby work. When the homeowners stop payments, and try to complain, the home repair company has moved away and the assignee of the mortgage brings foreclosures.

To protect homeowners, there needs to be Truth in Lending enforcement and investigations from the appropriate offices of the Justice Department, Consumer Affairs or the Treasury Department. Many of these fraudulent salesmen operate interstate and state offices of professional responsibility simply are not effective.

In addition the housing preservation grants and the Farmers Home Administration 504 rehabilitation program needs better advertising among rural home owners so that the elderly do not fall victim to fraudulent scams.

C. Problems in Rentals

The farmworker who is fortunate to have a good rented unit is likely to be a resident in Farmers Home Administration's farm labor housing, under section 514-516. The law allows that farmworkers who are currently residing tenants can continue to live in farm labor housing if they retire. However, elderly retired farmworkers can only be admitted to this type of housing after current farm labor have been admitted. Unfortunately hundreds of current farm labor are on waiting lists because the supply is so little compared to the demand.

The same is true for the rural rental housing, FmHA's 515 housing. In Florida the January 1990 survey showed there were 153 preapplications requesting $188,000,000/ However, the state's allocation was $12,900,000 so that out of the 153 preapplications, maybe 10 could be funded. If there are unused funds from other states, Florida may be able to get an additional allocation.

Thousands of the poorest elderly farmworkers live in flop houses, shacks, abandoned busses, or in the scrub. Many of these have aged before their time because of the hard life - including hours in the sun, stoop labor in vegetables, lugging heavy sacks in the citrus groves, exposure to harmful chemicals in insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, and fertilizers, and poor eating. Many have been alcohol dependent for years.

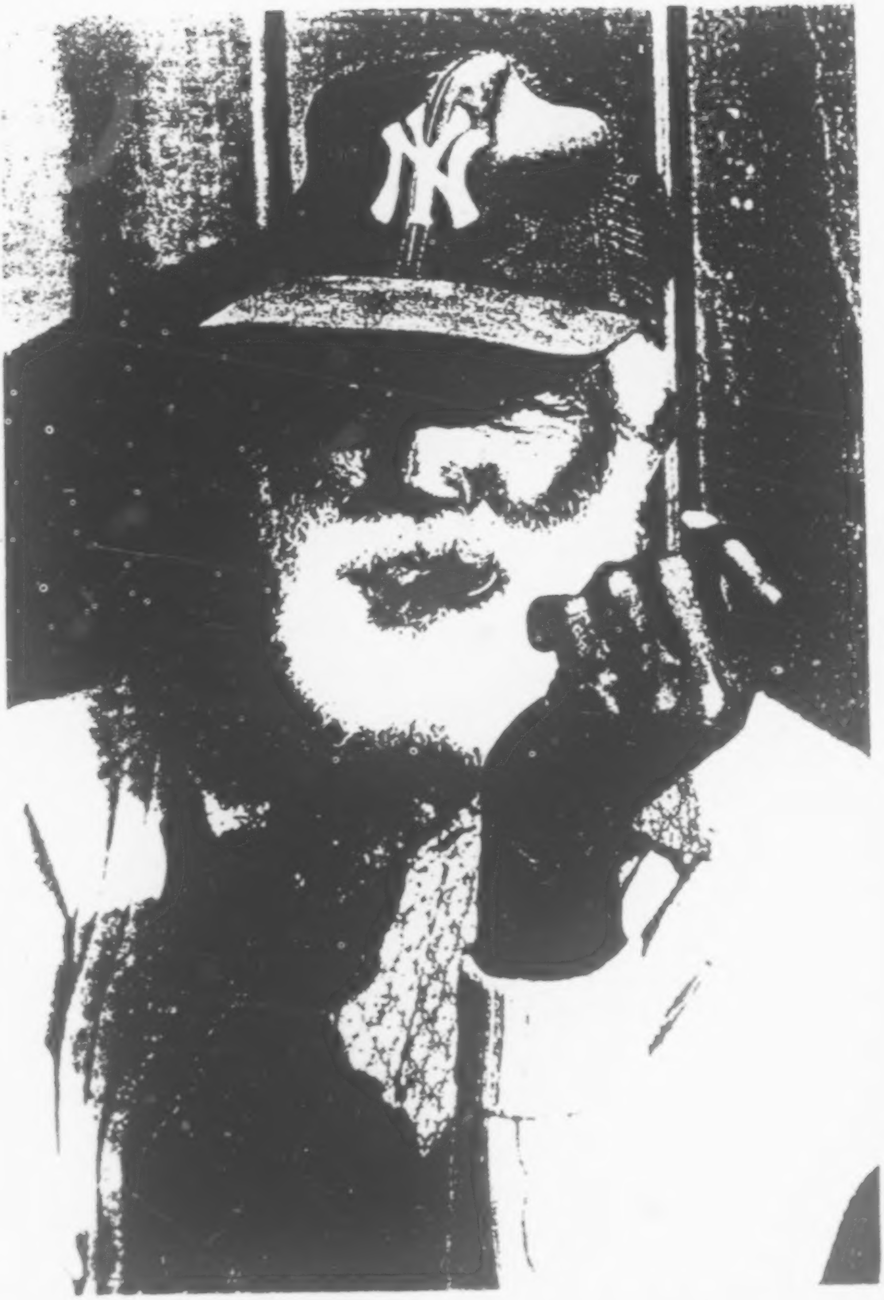
To address the needs of these poorest of elderly farmworkers, Congress should:

1. allocate more money to fund the very effective but under funded 515 rural rental program of Farmers Home Administration, as well as the 514-516 farm labor housing. In addition there should be demonstration moneys set aside for congregate care projects.

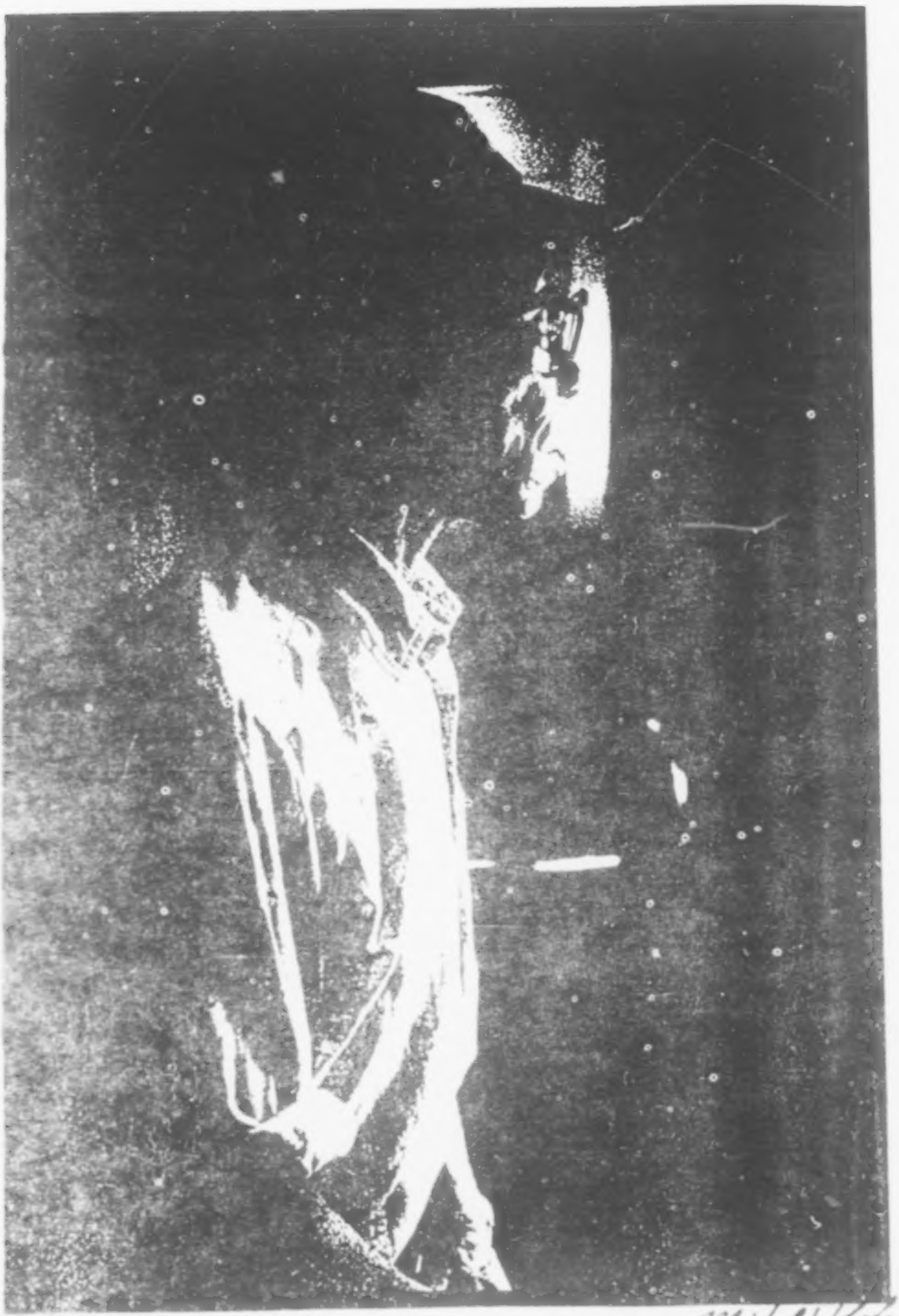
2. establish a set aside for elderly farmworkers in the 515 rural rental program.

3. extend the tax credit program for investors in low income housing.

4. prioritize housing elderly and elderly farmworkers in tax code sections on the enterprise zone.



Michael Kimble
1984



[illegible] VICTIM > WALKER

Michael L [illegible]
© 4/21/89

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STATEMENT OF THE MIGRANT LEGAL ACTION PROGRAM BEFORE THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON AGING

This statement is divided into two parts. The first concerns the housing needs of migrant farmworkers. The second discusses coverage of agricultural workers under the federal Fair Labor Standards Act and state workers' compensation and unemployment insurance laws.

I. HOUSING NEEDS OF MIGRANT FARMWORKERS

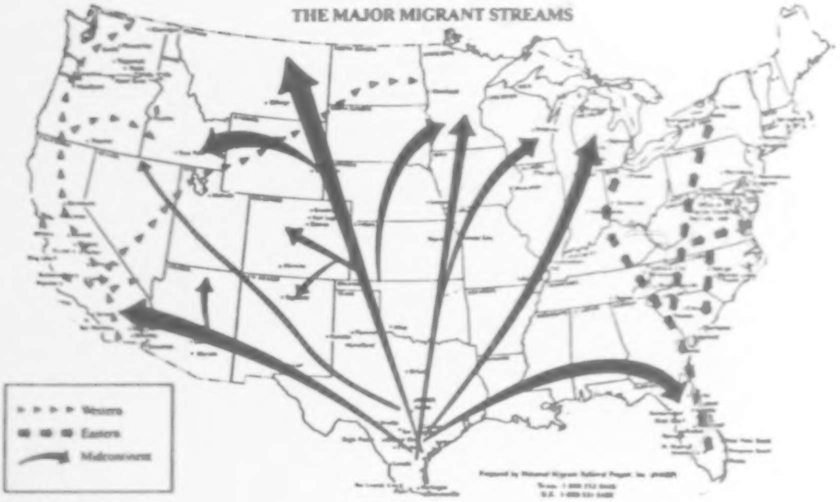
A. General Overview

To meet the sporadic but acute need for short-term labor to prepare and harvest crops, farmers require a mobile labor force to supplement local labor during peak use seasons. Because fruits and vegetables are seasonal and perishable, migrants provide a crucial source of labor. The migrant labor system that has evolved in the U.S. emphasizes mobility for workers and limited costs for farmers. Without such a work force, farmers and food processing operators would be faced with numerous problems, including increased labor costs and increased food wastage due to insufficient labor for timely harvesting.

Various federal agencies have reported the number of migrant farmworkers to be between 1.3 to 5 million persons including dependents. Frequently, children work alongside their parents. Parents conclude that total family income can be significantly greater if the entire family works in agriculture. Farmers also encourage child labor by preferring to hire families where a number of "hands" are available to work.

Migrant farmworkers word in almost every state at some point during the agricultural cycle. While they reside in some states only one or two months annually, they frequently remain for five to eight months in such "home base" states as Florida, California, Texas and Arizona, where either longer or multiple growing seasons merit their prolonged residence. The following map illustrates the three primary geographic "streams" or routes that migrants follow:

FIGURE 1
Map of United States Detailing Migrant Streams



Migrant farmworkers are poor. A recent Economic Research Service survey found that the average annual income for farmworkers was only $5,291. Of that amount, farm work accounted for $4,638.

While some farmwork does pay well when conditions are good, it is generally seasonal by nature and the work very sporadic. It is not uncommon for farmworkers to be lured to a new area by a guarantee of available, good paying jobs, only to find that no jobs are to be had due to a glut of labor or a spell of bad weather. With no work and no place to sleep, having spent their money for the trip, farmworkers often find themselves particularly vulnerable. It is common for migrants to wait several days or even weeks after arriving in an area before beginning work.

B. Overview of Migrant Farmworker Housing Needs

1. Base States

The housing needs of migrant farmworkers in their home base states should be considered in the context of the housing needs of all low-income Americans living in rural areas. Current rural housing assistance programs are too limited in scope to meet the need. Support to farmworkers from these programs must be increased.

A recent study by the American Association of Retired Persons and the Housing Assistance Council, "After the Harvest: the Plight of Older Farmworkers," documented the acute housing needs of elderly farmworkers. (See attached New York Times newspaper article which summarizes this report.) In 1987 Congress amended the statute governing the federally subsidized farm labor housing programs to allow retired and disabled farmworkers to reside in farm labor housing. This amendment will do little to nothing to relieve the housing needs of retired and disabled farmworkers. Farm labor housing is extremely limited. Federal regulations establish priorities for occupancy. First priority is given to active migrant farmworkers. Because of the numbers of farmworkers seeking housing, space for retired and disabled farmworkers is extremely limited.

2. Stream States

While examples of sanitary and affordable housing do exist in the stream states, on the whole migrant housing in the stream states can only be described as deplorable. The attached newspaper article describing a Pennsylvania migrant labor camp depicts a living situation that is all too common for migrant farmworkers. Farmworkers, while in the migrant stream, are forced to live in these squalid conditions simply because no other affordable housing is available. Farmworker wages are often times kept low because the grower offers free housing. Therefore, farmworkers are faced with the choice of living with a roof over their head, (even though the roof may only be a one-room shack with no running water, plumbing, or cooking facilities), or living in their cars.

The housing needs of migrant farmworkers are particularly acute when they first arrive in an area. Farmworkers are very short on funds at this point in time since they typically have spent all of their money to travel to the job site. If work is not immediately available and/or farmers, who provide housing, are not immediately hiring workers, these farmworkers find themselves without cash and housing. Existing rental assistance programs do not meet this acute emergency housing needs of farmworker families. Furthermore, current law does not allow unemployed farmworkers to occupy federally subsidized farm labor housing. While the existing federally subsidized farm labor housing is limited, where it does exist unemployed farmworkers should be allowed admission. The federal farm labor housing program should recognize the sporadic nature of farmwork and the likelihood that farmworkers may arrive at a farm labor housing project at a time where no farm work is available.

As previously described, only a limited number of units are available for farmworkers through the federally subsidized farm labor housing program. Active as well as retired and disabled farmworkers, who are U.S. citizens or lawful permanent resident aliens, are eligible for admission to this housing. The agricultural industry is attempting to amend the farm labor housing laws to allow temporary foreign agricultural workers (H-2A workers) admission to this housing. Such an amendment should not be supported. Federal funds are much too limited to subsidize the housing needs of foreign workers given the acute needs of domestic workers.

The Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) requires employers to comply with specific safety and health standards governing temporary labor camp housing. OSHA's enforcement of the housing standards has been spotty at best. OSHA is able to inspect only a limited number of labor camps each year.

OSHA does not provide individuals a private right of action to enforce their right to safe housing. Migrant farmworkers should be given this enforcement tool because without it their rights under OSHA are meaningless in many situations.

In 1985 in a paper on migrant farmworker issues the National Governors' Association concluded that "there is still no occupational group in the United States as much in need of improved housing as migrant agricultural workers." Demet, Edward F., Out of Sight, Out of Mind: An Update on Migrant

Farmworker Issues in Today's Agricultural Market, National Governors' Association, March, 1985.

C. Summary

1. Recognize migrant farmworkers as persons with special housing needs.
2. Expand rural housing programs.
3. Design a special rental assistance housing program to meet the short term needs of migrant farmworkers in stream states.
4. Allow unemployed farmworkers admission to federally subsidized farm labor housing programs.
5. Do not allow the admission of foreign agricultural workers (H-2A workers) to federally subsidized farm labor housing.
6. Create a private right of action under the Occupational Safety and Health Act to enable migrant farmworkers to enforce their right to safe employer provided farm labor housing.
7. Increase the ability of OSHA to inspect temporary labor camp housing.

II. AGRICULTURAL WORKER COVERAGE UNDER THE FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT AND STATE WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE LAWS

A. Minimum Wage and Overtime Pay

Many farmworkers earn only the minimum wage. As described above, the average income from farmwork is $4600 annually. The Minimum Wage Study Commission reported in June, 1981 that 51.3% of the migrant farmworkers surveyed earned at or below the federal minimum wage or within $0.25 above the federal minimum wage.

The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) is a federal law which guarantees workers the right to be paid a minimum hourly wage (currently $3.80 an hour) and overtime. **Because of exemptions in the FLSA for agricultural workers, many agricultural workers are not entitled to receive the minimum wage and all agricultural workers are not entitled to overtime pay.**

The following agricultural workers are not entitled to receive the minimum wage:

1. Agricultural workers working on small farms have no right to receive the minimum wage. 29 U.S.C. § 213 (a)(6). This exemption, known as the 500-man day exemption, generally applies to any agricultural employer employing less than seven workers six days a week for each of the twelve weeks in a three month period.

2. Local hand harvest agricultural workers are not entitled to receive the minimum wage. 29 U.S.C. § 213(a)(6). These are agricultural workers who:

a. are paid on a piece rate basis (e.g. $0.30 for a bucket of tomatoes) which is the locally customary payment for that work;

b. have worked in agriculture for less than 13 weeks for the preceding year; and

c. commute daily from their permanent residence to the farm where they work.

3. Some children who work in agriculture have no right to receive the minimum wage. 29 U.S.C. § 216 (a)(6). These are children under 16 years of age who:

a. perform hand-harvest work on a piece rate basis at the same level as other employees and such payment is customary of that type of work; and

b. work on the same farm as their parents.

Besides these exemptions from the minimum wage, the FLSA allows full-time students working in agriculture not on farms with their parents to be paid 85% of the minimum wage. 29 U.S.C. § 214.

B. Workers Compensation Benefits

Workers compensation benefits, provided to workers injured on the job, are a creation of state law. Even though agricultural work is one of the most dangerous occupations, fourteen states exclude agricultural workers from coverage. States not providing workers' compensation benefits to agricultural workers are: Alabama, Arkansas, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Twenty-five states carry limitations on the coverage of agricultural workers that are not applicable to other workers. In many of the states with limitations on the coverage of agricultural workers, the limitations act to deny workers' compensation coverage to most migrant farmworkers. For example, Georgia only covers agricultural workers working for the Department of Corrections; North Carolina covers only state agricultural service employees; Michigan covers only those agricultural workers working for an employer employing three or more persons for at least 35 or more hours a week for 13 consecutive weeks during the previous 52-week period; and Maine exempts seasonal or casual agricultural workers from coverage. States which cover agricultural workers the same as all other employees are: Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Ohio, Oregon, and the Virgin Islands.

C. Unemployment Insurance Benefits

The entitlement of migrant farmworkers to unemployment insurance benefits is extremely limited. With a few exceptions, states require only relatively large agricultural employers (that is, the agricultural employer has a payroll of at least $20,000 in any calendar quarter or has 20 or more employees in 20 weeks during the year) to carry unemployment insurance. Some states while providing for agricultural worker coverage have designed their program in such a way as to all but foreclose benefits being paid to migrant farmworkers. This means that unlike other workers, migrant farmworkers have no protection against the economic hazards of unemployment.

May 1990

REMARKS OF MICHIGAN MIGRANT LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT, INC. REGARDING HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness among farmworkers in the migrant stream has causes different from homelessness among other segments of the population. The migrants who come to Michigan typically consider their "homes" to be in Texas, Florida, or another state. They may be renting or buying a home1/ in that state or may live with relatives there. Other migrants have no location that they return to regularly. They move throughout the county searching for work and make whatever housing arrangements they can at each work location.

While in Michigan, migrant families usually live in labor camps owned and operated by their employers. Those who cannot find space in labor camps sometimes can obtain temporary emergency housing assistance from the Michigan Department of Social Services. Most often, however, they live in their cars. Migrants rarely seek housing through the conventional housing market primarily because the cost is prohibitive but also because short-term housing (i.e. without a lease) is often difficult to find.

Besides being in short supply, labor camp housing presents many problems for migrant families. First, although it is required to meet state regulations, it is still substandard by

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1/ "Buying a home" for migrants often consists of buying an undeveloped plot of land by making small payments on it for many years. After the land is paid for the migrant family will build a small house or shack and then try to make arrangements for water, sewage, etc.

any civilized definition. When a camp fails to meet even the minimal state standards, the "remedy" available to the occupants under the law is to have the camp closed. Thus, a worker who wants to complain to enforcement authorities about illegal camp conditions is often facing a choice between dangerous, unsanitary housing and no housing at all.

Second, when the housing is controlled by one's employer, complaints of any kind put one at risk of homelessness. Migrant farmworkers are frequently willing to endure conditions that violate employment laws because they fear losing their job and their housing in one fell swoop. Because entire families usually live and work together (children as young as 12 can work legally in agriculture), a dispute between the boss and member of the family can result in homelessness for the entire family.

Third, farmworkers living in labor camps have even less control over housing terms than do tenants in conventional rental housing. Employers may name virtually any amount they choose as "rent" and deduct it directly from workers' paychecks, along with additional deductions for heat, utilities, garbage collection, "damage" to property, etc. Since the agricultural employers are in business to make a profit, they have a strong incentive to spend as little money as possible on the labor camps and to extract as much money as possible from the migrants for their use. Migrants need stricter housing standards for labor camps and a more effective

5

enforcement mechanism, i.e. not one that punishes the occupant more than it punishes the owner.

Migrants also need a larger supply of housing available to them and they need an alternative to employer-provided housing. Such an alternative could be provided by Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) assistance to non-profit organizations to build and operate farmworker housing. One such FmHA-funded project already operates successfully in Southwestern Michigan.

May 1990

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That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

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SUNDAY, MAY 29, 1988

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National Edition

Southwest: Clouds, scattered thunderstorms west, central Texas and Oklahoma. Highs 85-95. Elsewhere, mostly sunny. Highs 83-93. Little change tomorrow. Weather map is on page 15.

Older Migrants' Years of Toil In Sun End in Cold Twilight

By JON NORDHEIMER

Special to The New York Times

IMMOKALEE, Fla. — In a $3-a-night flophouse, as younger men share a quart bottle of malt liquor, Alberto Gonzalez is asked what he has to show for a half-century of bone-aching labor on America's farms.

He lifts the edge of a smudged sheet hanging over the side of his metal frame cot, one of 48 beds arranged in neat rows within the large room. Stored beneath are three battered cardboard beer cartons. "This," the 59-year-old migrant farm worker announces matter-of-factly in Spanish, "is everything I have in the world."

Inside the boxes are twill and denim work clothes rolled into balls and an extra pair of scarred boots. There is nothing else, nothing the fine shops call accessories, not even a comb. In Alberto Gonzalez's world, the sum of one's possessions is what can be carried to the next job and the next migrant labor camp.

Invisible Work Force

There are thousands of aging men and women like Mr. Gonzalez who have toiled as migrant laborers and have next to nothing to show for it except sun-leathered skin and, often, a look of desperation. They are America's invisible work force. When their labor is no longer needed, or they grow too weak to perform it, the older farm workers just drift away, vanishing into homelessness in the cities or into some other ragged existence on the far margins of society.

"Texas folks will say their situation is as bad. Mississippi folks will say their situation is as bad, but no place is as bad for older farm workers than here in Florida," said John Brown, a former migrant worker who now heads a group called Neighbors Organized for Affordable Housing (NOAH) in Belle Glade, a migrant town 58 miles east of here.

Cesar Chavez, head of the United Farm Workers of America, said, "The ones that are really bad off are the ones who are in the migrant streams on the East Coast." His union, based almost wholly in California, has negotiated pension rights for its 30,000 members.

The problems of elderly migrants were examined at an April conference sponsored by the American Association of Retired Persons in Washington.

Continued on Page 14, Column 1

The New York Times/Penelope Taylor

Alberto Gonzalez, a migrant worker, rests on bunk in Immokalee, Fla.

For Older Migrants, Years of Toiling in Hot Sun Reap Only a Cold Twilight

Continued From Page 1

One complication, the conference participants were told, is that data on elderly migrant workers were nearly nonexistent.

Housing is the first concern of the aging farm worker, many of whom do not qualify for federally subsidized housing, just as many do not qualify for state and public assistance, Social Security, pensions or disability benefits.

Here in Immokalee, a labor center standing in the muck-rich flat fields in the broad shadow of Lake Okeechobee in the southwest corner of Florida, roach-infested shacks rent for $400 a month. A more substantial house with two or three bedrooms may harbor a family of 12 who pay $800 or more a month. A battered house trailer with one small room and a cramped cooking galley rents for $375 a month. In nearly all these quarters the indoor plumbing is either faulty or nonexistent.

"Most people have no conception of these living conditions," said Lois Frankel, a member of a state legislative subcommittee that investigated substandard farm housing last year. "In labor camps like Immokalee, there are no housing codes. It shocked me. You can read about them, watch them on television, and still not be prepared for the reality. This is the U.S.A., and I can't believe it is still happening."

Many Years, Many Scars

For older laborers like Alberto Gonzalez, a Puerto Rican, the situation is much worse. He can work only two or three days a week. His feet, he says, are ulcerated from long hours in puddled fields laced with pesticides. He pulls down a sock to reveal a glistening sore. He lost the vision in one eye in a back alley fight.

The day will come, he said with a smile that belied the content of his words, when he will no longer be able to go into the fields at all. "If I get to that point, I can get unemployment for a while and food stamps," Mr. Gonzalez said. "Perhaps I can try for Social Security."

Ruby Holland, left, and Margaret Best outside their house trailer in Immokalee, Fla. Mrs. Holland is a former migrant worker; Mrs. Best used to work in a fruit and vegetable packing house.

But where will you live? he is asked.

"Yo no sé," he answers, the smile broadening like it is a punch line to a joke on someone else. "I don't know."

The answer, for some like him, lies not far away in the fields around Immokalee, a town whose name is a Seminole Indian word that means "my home." Men fashion rude pallets and sleep on the ground. Some spend nights in abandoned cars and trucks.

Others simply drift away, never to be seen again. They go to the cities, spend some time in missions and move on. Some head home for the last time to native soil in Alabama, Texas, Mexico or Puerto Rico.

Many just die.

"I think that's the answer," said Rob Williams, a lawyer working in behalf of migrant workers in Florida. "They don't live too long. The job either kills them or poverty does."

Some people are trying to help. They are finding it is not easy.

One is Bea Harper, a widow who lives in Naples, Fla., a Gulf Coast resort of private golf courses, elegant homes and restaurants and white sand beaches. She was heavily involved in church and garden club work, helping build a shelter for abused and neglected children.

One day she went to Immokalee, 35 miles away. She said it changed her life. "I had been through Immokalee before, but I had never stopped," she recalled one day recently. "The farm laborers were people you saw from your car passing on the highway. The day I stopped, I knew I had to do something. I didn't realize that just one-half hour away was an area so bleak with poverty."

That was four years ago. In all that time, Mrs. Harper, who attended the April conference in Washington, has been working toward the goal of building housing for 36 elderly farm workers. Through her efforts 47 acres in the Immokalee area was contributed, but she was less successful in raising most of the $400,000 needed to build on it. She has applied to the state for a community block development grant. It has been denied every year for four years.

Some Help Is on the Way

Neighbors Organized for Affordable Housing, John Brown's group, has had more success. Last year, the organization opened a 64-unit housing complex for farm workers, South Bay Villas, a low-rent project constructed with Palm Beach County tax money and private bank loans. Next year, the group hopes to open a second project, the 144-unit Covenant House, and plans to fill 20 percent of the apartments with elderly workers.

Meanwhile, people like Ruby Holland and Margaret Best live in cramped house trailers on a dusty road in Immokalee.

"I've picked peppers and tomatoes from Florida to California and chopped cotton all over the South," said Mrs. Holland, a 65-year-old who talks with the dialect of the Ozark hills wh

father was a sharecropper. "I quit when I couldn't take the chemicals coming off the plants on my hands. They'd swell up on me every night, and I'd go to sleep clawing them." Now she pulls a cart through the streets of Immokalee, picking up aluminum cans for recycling, getting 30 cents a pound to augment her Social Security payments.

Mrs. Best worked in a fruit and vegetable packing house, folding boxes along an automated line. "That machine would run 'em by you real fast," she said. "I'd make 7,000 boxes in an eight-hour shift."

Hoping to Go Home

When she started work, she earned $1.85 an hour. By the time she "retired" in 1985, when she could no longer stand to work because of a degenerated disk in her back, she was paid $4 an hour.

"Ain't no use to worry," Mrs. Best said. "If you've got it, you've got it, if you ain't, you ain't. I'm going to be by myself until I die."

"For me," Ruby Holland said, "I want to die back home in Arkansas. You make a living out of this Florida dirt, but it ain't never going to be home."

Her friend nodded with understanding but expressed a personal point of pride: "I got insurance on me which will take care of me when I die. I don't care where it's done, but I rest comfortable every night that the insurance will buy me a decent grave and there will be no potter's field for Margaret

> Possessions are what can be carried to the next field.

The Philadelphia Inquirer
METRO

THURSDAY
March 24, 1988

The Philadelphia Inquirer / CHARLES FOX

A migrant worker reads by the window in a Chester County camp that he shares with 16 other mushroom pickers.

Struggling in the migrant camps

By Rich Henson
and Sergio Bustos
Inquirer Staff Writers

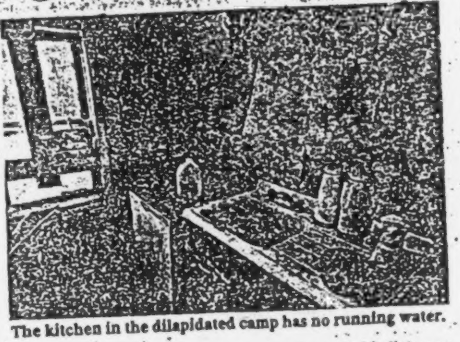
Pompeyo Cortez settled wearily into the car seat he had propped up against the front wall of a squat, cinderblock building at a migrant camp tucked away on a dirt road just off busy U.S. Route 1.

Though his eyes showed the glaze from too many 3 a.m. wake-up calls, Cortez could see his predicament all too clearly.

"Nothing has changed," he said between puffs on a cigarette. "It's pretty much the same."

It has been 16 years since Cortez came to work in the mushroom houses that dominate the verdant hills of southern Chester County, and 10 years since the state legislature passed the Seasonal Farm Labor Act in the hope of improving housing for migrant farmworkers. But workers and their advocates say improvements have been few.

The Avondale shanty where Cortez lives has no running water, a broken toilet and shower, shattered windows covered with plastic sheets, a leaking roof, dangling wallboards, a rotted kitchen floor through which wastewater is poured onto the ground below, bare electrical wires, a broken front door and a dismal reputation among the mostly Mexican, mushroom-picking community. They call it *Las Ruinas* — The Ruins.



The kitchen in the dilapidated camp has no running water.

Cortez and 16 other mushroom pickers pay $375 a month to rent the camp, which has 14 cots crammed into three bedrooms. The men say they will probably never complain about their dismal living conditions for fear that the owner would simply shut down the place rather than pay to fix it up. If the camp were closed, Cortez said, he could not afford to live anyplace else.

The Seasonal Farm Labor Act came on the heels of a 1977 U.S. Civil Rights Commission report that labeled mushroom housing in Chester County "deplorable" and required the Department of Environmental Resources to inspect migrant camps across the state at least once a year to ensure that they were sanitary and safe.

Despite the law, places like The Ruins still exist among the nearly 140 mushroom companies in the Kennett Square area that employ about 3,500 workers, most of whom are Mexicans.

Officials at the DER's Bureau of Community Environmental Control, which inspects farm labor camps, say the agency has made significant strides in improving housing conditions for mushroom workers despite budget restraints. For instance, sanitarian supervisor Gerard Centofanti said in a recent interview, the DER now annually inspects 63 out of 94 farm labor camps in Chester County that the agency has determined come under jurisdiction. The remaining camps should come under

(See HOUSING on 6-B)

Migrants struggle for better housing

Ten years ago, after mushroom-worker housing in Chester County was labeled "deplorable," a law was passed requiring inspections of migrant camps across the state. Despite that law, poor conditions still exist.

HOUSING, from 1-B

spection by next year, he said.

Still, there are least 20 additional camps in Chester County that the DER knows about but has not determined whether those camps come under their jurisdiction. And, say DER officials and farmworker support groups, there are probably more camps hidden in the hills that DER inspectors have not uncovered.

And there are some camps, like The Ruins, that will never be inspected by the DER because of loopholes in the Seasonal Farm Labor Act.

Farmworker support groups say widespread improvements in mushroom-worker housing have been slowed because of DER foot-dragging and resistance by growers.

"These are the same problems [that existed] in New York City 90 years ago when they debated whether to have tenement codes," said Pepe DiStefano of CATA, the Spanish acronym for the Agricultural Workers Support Committee, based in Glassboro, N.J. "Sure, some of the mushroom housing has gotten better, but most workers are still living in 20-year-old trailers or 80- to 100-year-old houses, which virtually are falling apart."

By far the most common complaint among farmworker advocates is that it has taken the DER 10 years just to develop a list of farm labor camps — a list that still is not complete.

"The progress has been very discouraging, frankly," said Michael Cassidy, an aide to state Rep. Mark Cohen (D., Phila.), chairman of the House Labor Relations Committee. "It obviously doesn't take 10 years just to count them. If you worked with the farm labor groups and others, you would be able to identify them all with a reasonable level of accuracy and certainly within a year. We should be way beyond this stage at this point."

During the first six years after the act was passed, the DER rarely inspected mushroom facilities, contending that because mushroom houses operated year-round, they were not "seasonal," as defined by the law. By 1984, only three labor camps had been inspected and issued permits to operate in Chester County, according to Arthur N. Read, general counsel with the Friends of Farmworkers in Philadelphia.

That year, Read filed a class-action suit in Commonwealth Court on behalf of numerous Hispanic workers. Read argued that the legislature clearly intended that mushroom camps, which make up about one-third of all farm labor camps in the state, be covered by the legislation.

Read won the suit, and in 1985 the DER agreed to inspect all farm labor camps that housed at least one worker on a seasonal basis or that housed more than four workers year-round. After dozens of Chester County migrants traveled to Harrisburg and testified about horrendous living conditions, the legislature voted to finance the inspection program with a special appropriation. The DER has received an average of $230,000 a year for the last three years for labor camp inspections.

DER officials say the money is not enough. "Budget restraints have been a problem ever since the law was passed," said Paul McMichael, division chief of the Bureau of Community Environmental Control.

Cassidy, who lobbied for the special funding, said the money was intended to supplement the DER's existing inspection program, but instead "ended up being the whole damn thing."

Still, Read said, the DER could do a better job if it put the money in the right places.

"In the past two budget years, they have gotten more money than they asked for," Read said, "and despite that, they have not done as effective a job with those resources as anybody believed they should have."

For instance, Read said, the DER could have spent more of the money to hire more inspectors. He also noted that there were no Spanish-speaking inspectors.

Centofanti said the Bureau of Community Environmental Control had six inspector positions in the Norristown region, but had had difficulty keeping the jobs filled. "We have a lot of turnover, and we have been down as low as two inspectors at any one time," he said.

The inspectors, whose starting salary is $16,000 a year, also monitor schools, public water supplies, restaurants and other facilities and spend about 15 percent of their time on labor camps.

Lewis Luchie, a DER regional sanitation manager, said proof of the agency's progress was its first-of-a-kind, bilingual educational program for migrants that started this month. He said the program, developed by the Chester County Intermediate Unit in the fall at a cost of $60,000, uses pamphlets and videos to teach workers proper health and sanitary practices.

The educational program was created, Luchie said, "because one of the most common complaints we get from growers is that they fix their places up and these guys come in and mess things all up again. It's just the cultural differences."

Those kinds of comments, Cassidy said, indicate the DER is too sympathetic toward the growers.

"I am not against education," he said, "but when educational efforts are used as an attempt to shift the blame for the conditions of the camps onto the workers, they are entirely misplaced."

Yet another point of contention is how farm labor camps are defined. The migrants at The Ruins produced pay stubs showing that they work for Guido and James Frezzo, who are brothers. But their camp is part of an otherwise closed mushroom-growing complex owned by Dante DiUbaldo, a retired grower from Avondale.

Because the Frezzos do not own the property, Centofanti said, it does not qualify as a farm labor camp and the DER does not inspect it.

DiUbaldo said that "I'm doing a favor to these guys to let them stay there." He would not comment further. James Frezzo said that he had been unaware of the conditions at The Ruins but that he was not surprised because of the shortage of low-cost housing in the area.

(continued)

Cassidy disagreed with Centofanti that the facility did not qualify as a farm labor camp.

"From a public policy position, I don't think you should be able to subvert the law by having one guy supplying the housing while another supplies the jobs," he said.

The lack of a uniform inspection program for all labor camps has even irritated some growers, who say the system has created unfair competition. At the C.J. Mushroom Co. in Kennett Township, owner Clint Blackwell has furnished his workers' spacious and modern three-bedroom facility with a new dishwasher, a clothes washer and dryer, a color television and a VCR. The workers stay there for free.

"My complaint is that there is not a 100 percent complete canvassing of the industry," Blackwell said. DER inspectors "pick names off the same list they used the year before. So why should I have to go through all this expense and the next guy down the street gets away for free?"

At La Casa Del Pueblo, a Kennett Square housing agency geared toward helping Hispanics, director Sheila Knotwell said community attitudes also had made developing private housing for farmworkers difficult.

"This community is willing to say we are the mushroom capital of the world," she said, "but they are not interested in being the bedroom community for the worker."

MAY 22 1990
[illegible] on Aging

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR

May 15, 1990

Honorable Edward R. Roybal, Chairman
Select Committee on Aging
United States House of Representatives
300 New Jersey Ave. S.E., Room 712
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Elderly Farmworkers

Dear Congressman Roybal:

Thank you for sending us an announcement for your April 24, 1990, hearing concerning the plight of elderly farmworkers. The National Senior Citizens Law Center has often represented such farmworkers, particularly in their attempt to secure the pension and health insurance benefits they were promised in employment.

In light of your examination of the problems of farmworkers, I thought you might be interested in our recent proposal to the Campaign for Human Development for a new special project entitled "Jubilados". I have enclosed a copy of the narrative portion of the proposal for your information and use.

"Jubilados" recognizes that an important reason for poverty among elderly farmworkers is their lack of pension benefits in retirement. The goal of our project is to establish an equitable pension system for farmworkers that is sensitive to the unique work patterns and needs of this specialized work force. There are many ways Congress can assist "Jubilados" even now by, for example, assuring that ERISA's seasonal worker rules are implemented and requiring employers to explain farmworkers' pension rights in Spanish.

We look forward to working with you on these endeavors. If you or your staff have any questions about these issues please feel free to contact either myself or Vicki Gottlich in our Washington, D.C. office.

Sincerely,

Neal S. Dudovitz

NEAL S. DUDOVITZ
Deputy Director

NSD/mg
cc: Vicki Gottlich
Encl.

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JUBILADOS:

A FARMWORKER PENSION RIGHTS PROJECT

Submitted By:

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January 31, 1990

A. INTRODUCTION

Jubilados is designed to help farmworkers - including migrant and seasonal workers in the fields and the canneries/packing houses - obtain greater pension equity. Recognizing that only by radically altering and restructuring the current agricultural pension programs can equity be achieved, Jubilados will use community education, litigation and legislative advocacy to forge a new private pension system for farmworkers.

1. History of The National Senior Citizens Law Center

The National Senior Citizens Law Center (NSCLC) was established in 1972 to help older Americans live their lives with dignity and freedom from poverty. NSCLC pursues this goal by practicing law in support of legal services programs and on behalf of elderly poor clients and client groups.

The Center's legal work is directed towards fundamental reform of the law to aid low income seniors. NSCLC attorneys employ all forms of legal advocacy on behalf of their clients including extensive litigation, legislative action, administrative advocacy, and community education.

The legal issues pursued by NSCLC attorneys are on the cutting edge of the law and affect large numbers of the elderly poor. In pursuit of these issues the Center's attorneys have regularly appeared in Congress, the federal district and circuit courts throughout the United States, and the United States Supreme Court.

Over the past 18 years NSCLC has fundamentally altered the laws and the structure of private and governmental support systems for the elderly and provided hundreds of thousands of indigent seniors the benefits they need to survive. NSCLC's significant accomplishments include:

1) Reforming private pensions through court adoption of a rule requiring equitable distribution of benefits. As a result, the federal court ordered nearly 10 million dollars in pension benefits for retired construction laborers in California.

2) Changing the operation of the Social Security disability program by securing enactment of the 1984 Social Security Disability Amendments which prevented SSA from eliminating thousands of disabled individuals from the program.

3) Requiring through court order that the Teamsters pension plan take account of the known work patterns of the participating workers and establish a new pension program for seasonal cannery workers in California.

4) Halting the Social Security Administration's illegal policy of withholding checks from beneficiaries in need of representative payees which had resulted in elderly and disabled people being left homeless.

NSCLC has served as a national legal services support center under both the Legal Services Corporation and the Administration on Aging for the past 15 years, and under the California Bar Trust Fund for 5 years.

2. Organizational Structure of NSCLC

NSCLC maintains two offices of approximately equal size, one in Los Angeles and the other in Washington, D.C. The Center is headed by the Executive Director located in Washington, D.C. and the Deputy Director in Los Angeles.

The Center is staffed with 11 attorneys, each specializing in one or more areas of the law that affect low-income seniors. These include: Private Pensions, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social

Security, Medicare, Age Discrimination, Nursing Homes, Medicaid, Housing, Home Care, Protective Services and Veterans.

NSCLC has an 11 member Board of Directors, drawn nationally. To meet the demands of the federal Legal Services Corporation the Board consists of a majority of attorneys appointed by the California and D.C. Bar Associations and low-income client representatives designated by the NSCLC Board.

The NSCLC Board determines the general policies and goals of the program, sets the advocacy priorities and reviews and approves the financial practices. The Executive Director and Deputy Director are responsible for carrying out the directives of the Board and seeing that the staff select appropriate cases and projects that are consistent with the Board's policies and priorities. Decisions on the acceptance of cases and other advocacy projects are made by the NSCLC attorney staff.

3. Organizational Structure of Jubilados

As with other specific advocacy projects of the Center, the NSCLC Board of Directors will not have any specific role in Jubilados. Jubilados, will be directed by a special Advisory Board of 7 farmworkers from California and Texas. The Advisory Board will consist of both, current farm laborers and retired farmworkers, as well as spouses of workers and retirees.

The Board will be responsible for setting the direction of Jubilados. The Advisory Board's tasks include:

a) Assisting in the identification of private pension problems faced by farmworkers.

b) Prioritizing the pension issues for the staff.

c) **Identifying the impact in the farmworker communities of using different forms of advocacy.**

d) **Evaluating the effectiveness of the project.**

e) **Determining the project's future directions.**

The Advisory Board will be nominated by the NSCLC staff after consultation with migrant and farmworker organizations in California and Texas. The Center will use three different sources to identify potential members of the Advisory Board.

First, the Center will utilize the existing network of specialized farmworker legal services projects including California Rural Legal Assistance, Texas Rural Legal Aid, and the Migrant Legal Action Program to identify potential members for the Board. These organizations work directly with farmworkers in the community and, NSCLC staff already have an existing relationship with them as a result of their common Legal Services Cooperation work.

The second pool for the Board will be current farmworker organizations in the two states. These include in California: the United Farmworkers; Asociación Cívica Benito Juarez in the Central Valley; Mujeres Mexicanas in Coachella, the Teamsters Union in the Central Valley, Campesinos Unidos in Coachella, Lázaro Cardenas Independent Union in Stockton; and the Independent Farmworker Union in Salinas. In Texas they include: the United Farmworkers in the Rio Grande Valley; Guadalupe Community Center, in Lubbock; Centro Aztlan, in Laredo; Union De Trabajadores Agricolas Fronterizos, in El Paso; and the International Union of Agricultural Workers in the Rio Grande Valley and the Pan Handle.

In addition, NSCLC will consult with national Latino organizations that work in the farmworker community. These include, the

Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF) and the Asociación Nacional Pro Personas Mayores.

Third, NSCLC will utilize the contacts of its own staff attorneys who represent groups of farmworkers in California that have sued to protect their pension rights. NSCLC expects that one or more of those persons who have already demonstrated an interest in, and a familiarity with pension issues, and an understanding of how lawyers can be used to reform pension plans, will serve on the Advisory Board.

The Advisory Board will be in place by June 1, 1990. It will meet in June or July 1990 to establish the initial direction for Jubilados. To insure that the Advisory Board has sufficient access to the NSCLC Directors, the NSCLC Board will designate one of its client members to serve as a liaison with the farmworkers.

B. THE PROBLEM/NEED

1. Poverty Among the Latino Elderly and Farmworkers

The elderly in the Latino community, particularly those who are farmworkers, are among the poorest groups in our society. According to a 1989 study by the Commonwealth Fund, older Latinos experience a poverty rate that is nearly twice that of all elderly. The profile of the typical elderly Latino person is, as the report noted, startling:

> The typical Latino elderly person struggles to make ends meet on less than $104 a week. Serious health problems and functional impairments make living independently difficult, and many must rely on children or other relatives for economic, health and social support. Speaking Spanish only and having little education, many elderly Latinos are precluded from receiving the benefits typically available to retired people. Instead, a high percentage of elderly Latinos are dependant on Supplemental Security Income and Medicaid to fill the gaps left by their low incomes and inadequate health insurance coverage.

Elderly Mexican-Americans have both the highest rate of poverty among the Latino elderly and are most likely to have worked as farmworkers.

This poverty level is not surprising given the design of our nation's retirement income system. The theory of our retirement programs is that people will be able to live adequately in retirement if they have income from three separate streams - social security, private pensions, and savings. This is usually termed the "three-legged stool" principal because the system will collapse if any leg of the stool is absent.

Older Latinos, particularly older farmworkers, are lucky if they have one leg of that stool, let alone three! Latino elderly are less likely to receive social security, indeed nearly a quarter of them do not have those benefits as compared to 8% of all elderly. And, only 19% of elderly Latinos receive a private pension, while nearly 50% of all elderly have pension income.

Obviously, persons who work in low paying jobs are unable to pay for the daily necessities of life, let alone put aside savings for retirement. Indeed, the average annual wage of regular farmworkers in California is approximately $5,000 - no one could be expected to save for retirement from that paltry sum.

2. The Pension Needs of Farmworkers

There are hundreds of thousands of workers in California and Texas, almost entirely Latino, whose regular occupation can be considered farm labor. In California alone there are estimated to be 250,000 to 300,000 so-called "professional farmworkers". Since farm labor is their lifetime work, these people will obtain the pensions they need to augment social security only if their agricultural work generates a benefit. And, as noted above, if they do not receive a pension they will continue to be mired in poverty in their old age.

There are two reasons that these farmworkers do not receive private pension benefits. One, is the failure of their employers to offer such benefits. Agricultural work is notorious, especially in Texas for both its low salary and non-existent fringe benefits.

The second reason retired farmworkers have no pensions is that even when offered, the pension plans are designed to produce extremely low rates of worker qualification. The experience of NSCLC staff suggests that only a small percentage, maybe 10 per cent, ever meet the plan's eligibility conditions. And, even those who do meet them often receive miniscule benefits.

There are a number of reasons for these results. One is that most pension material is written in English, while the primary, and often only, language of the workers is Spanish. Pension eligibility rules are complicated enough to understand for trained English-speaking lawyers. They are, impossible to understand for workers who neither read nor speak English. Consequently, workers often fail to meet eligibility rules because they never understood the rules in the first place.

Second, employers usually design plans to favor those employers who are either supervisors or owners of the company. Basing plans on those work patterns produces eligibility conditions designed to eliminate farmworkers from benefits and resulting in the wealth of the fund being distributed to the supervisory workers and owners. In essence, it is a tax shelter for the wealthy, at the expense of the work of the poor.

Third, because no one is watching over the shoulders of these funds, and because there is often large, tempting sums of money in a pension fund account, employers often illegally manipulate the money to their benefit and to the detriment of the workers. Particularly in profit sharing plans, employers often personally use the money in violation of federal law. Farmworkers in desperate need are then faced with an employer giving them a choice of small sums of money as full payment of promised benefits or, nothing. Not surprisingly, with their limited understanding of the plan due to the language barriers, lack of trained legal help, a dire need for money, and a fear of the employer, workers have no choice but to accept these small sums.

3. The Need for Legal Assistance

There is also a dearth of legal help available to farmworkers and retirees to solve these acute problems. Farmworker legal services programs are already stretched to their limits trying to meet the immediate food, clothing, medical care, and shelter needs of the workers and their families. Given the limited resources of these legal programs they do not have the people-power to master the complicated federal labor and tax laws that govern the private pension system.

On the other hand, NSCLC has pension expertise but very limited resources. The Center has relatively little time to devote to private pension problems on a national level, let alone the particular pension problems of one segment of the elderly. Moreover, these pension needs compete for staff time with the equally compelling needs of the low-income elderly for SSI, Medicaid, Nursing Homes, Medicare and Social Security.

Most importantly, to address some of the critical pension needs of farmworkers, an advocacy program must be able to work directly with the clients and to aggressively examine and advocate real change in the pension system. The major funding sources of NSCLC, the Legal Services Corporation and the Administration on Aging, either prohibit or frown upon such work; thus making real reform in this area extremely difficult without outside funding.

C. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Jubilados has several objectives for the immediate grant year. They include: (1) providing information about pension rights to both farmworkers and their advocates; (2) using litigation, and legislative and administrative advocacy to implement and modify existing pension laws to increase farmworker's pension equity; and, (3) attacking the structural problems of the pension system through law reform, litigation and legislative advocacy.

Jubilados long range goal is to restructure the farmworker pension system. Jubilados hopes this will be accomplished by the development of a strong worker driven movement for an equitable pension program and a continuing aggressive advocacy program of law reform litigation and legislative change.

By reforming the private pension system in the agricultural arena Jubilados will make a significant impact on poverty among the elderly in the Latino community and particularly among retired farmworkers in California and Texas. In conjunction with other efforts by farmworkers and their advocates to drastically reform agricultural employment, it will provide workers with a greater share of the economic wealth of the agricultural industry. And, correspondingly alter the political and social structure in these local communities.

D. IMPLEMENTATION PLANS

1. Activities and Tasks

To meet its first objective, providing information about pension rights, Jubilados will undertake an education program on two fronts. First, it will commence an extensive farmworker pension education project in California and Texas. Jubilados staff will meet with workers and farmworker organizations in their communities to explain the pension system and the protections afforded by the current federal pension law (ERISA). In addition, the staff will prepare Spanish language pamphlets and booklets setting forth workers' rights.

These events in the local farmworker communities will also help Jubilados keep in touch with the needs of the workers. The programs will be set in each community to coincide with harvest time to insure exposure to the maximum number of workers.

The second education program will be targeted to the legal services lawyers and advocates in the field so they will be prepared to assist workers in enforcing their pension rights. Jubilados will conduct an intensive training program in each state on pension law and the pension rights of farmworkers. And, Jubilados will publish a desktop manual for use by advocates in the field.

The legal training and preparation of the manual will be one of the initial activities of the project in order to insure that advocates will be prepared to aid workers who respond to the community education programs. In addition, that will allow local legal services advocates to assist in the community education portions of the project.

To implement its second objective, modifying and applying existing laws, Jubilados will concentrate on two issues - mandating that pension plans provide information to workers in Spanish and that pension plans have special, less stringent, eligibility rules for workers in seasonal industries. In both of these areas Congress passed supporting legislation as early as 1974, but the supervising federal agencies have failed to implement the statutes. Jubilados expects to use a combination of aggressive litigation and legislative and administrative advocacy to fully implement these provisions.

Finally, Jubilados will meet its third objective by altering and changing the pension structure itself. Jubilados will undertake a combination of legislative advocacy and large scale law reform litigation. The suits will be directed at specific employers and generated by individual farmworkers following the community and legal education programs. The litigation will be headed by Jubilados staff but conducted with the assistance of the local legal services programs. In addition, Jubilados will begin drafting and proposing affirmative legislative changes designed to increase the availability of pensions for farmworkers, while at the same time insuring equitable benefit entitlement for the workers.

Both law reform litigation and significant legislative change usually require a number of years of consistent and intensive work before they come to fruition. Jubilados expects that will be particularly true in the pension area which will impact many of the major entities in our economy (i.e., banks, insurance companies, employers, unions, etc.).

2. Quarterly Time Schedule

DATE	STAFF	TASK
1st Quarter 9/90 - 12/90	Project Director	Prepare manual for lawyers; prepare and conduct lawyer training in Cal. and Texas; draft pamphlets for workers.
	Project Coordinator	Assist with manual and lawyer training; meet with farmworker organizations to plan for education programs; prepare Spanish pamphlets for workers.
	Staff Attorney	Assist with manual; research legislative and administrative issues; develop plan for advocacy re: Spanish language and seasonal worker issues.
2nd Quarter 12/90 - 3/91	Project Director	Education program in Texas (Rio Grande & Wintergarden); litigation on Spanish language and seasonal workers questions; project evaluation.
	Project Coordinator	Education program in Texas (Rio Grande & Wintergarden); organize future programs; work with Adv. Bd.; project evaluation.
	Staff Attorney	Legislative and administrative work on Spanish language and seasonal workers.
3rd Quarter 3/91 - 6/91	Project Director	Litigation on Spanish language and seasonal workers; begin law reform litigation; education programs - Cal. (Imperial Valley and Santa Maria).
	Project Coordinator	Education programs - Cal. (Imperial Valley and Santa Maria); plan Advisory Board meeting.
	Staff Attorney	Legislative and administrative advocacy on Spanish language and seasonal workers; plan for comprehensive legislative and administrative work.

4th Quarter 6/91 - 9/91	**Project Director**	**Education programs Texas (Trans-Pecos and Pan Handle) Cal. (Coachella, Fresno, Sacramento); litigation on Spanish language, seasonal worker and law reform; project evaluation.**
	Project Coordinator	**Education programs Texas (Trans-Pecos and Pan Handle) Cal. (Coachella, Fresno, Sacramento); project evaluation.**
	Staff Attorney	**Legislative and administrative advocacy on major reform, Spanish language, and seasonal workers issues.**

3. Job Descriptions

Project Director - Responsible for the over-all operation of the project. Conduct all litigation, lawyer training and prepare legal written materials. Conduct the farmworker education programs with the project coordinator and assist and help design the legislative and administrative advocacy.

The project Director will be Neal S. Dudovitz the deputy Director of NSCLC. His office is in Los Angeles.

Project Coordinator - Responsible for the over-all coordination of the project including organizing the community education programs, lawyer training, and the production and distribution of the manual. Primary liaison with the Advisory board and community organizations. Draft all Spanish language materials and translate other materials where needed.

The project Coordinator will be Marta Gallegos currently the Administrative Assistant in NSCLC's Los Angeles office.

Staff attorney - Assist the project director with legal work including litigation and writing the manual. Primarily responsible for the administrative and legislative advocacy.

The staff attorney will be Vicki Gottlich, currently a staff attorney in NSCLC's Washington office.

Copies of the Resumes for each staff person are attached.

4-6. Affirmative Action; Leadership Development; Training

NSCLC has adopted a strong affirmative action recruitment and hiring plan. Since, the staff for Jubilados is already in place, however, no hiring is anticipated.

Leadership development is not applicable at this time to Jubilados. Jubilados will identify current farmworker leaders as part of its advisory board and expects that the advisory board may decide after the first year of the project to become a permanent farmworker organization. If so, leadership development may become important.

No staff training is planned. The staff are already highly skilled experts in their fields. Board training will take place as part of the regular Jubilados community education program.

E. EVALUATION

Jubilados will be evaluated on three levels. First, the Advisory Board is charged with the task of evaluating the effectiveness of the program. The Board's second meeting, scheduled for the third quarter of the grant year and will be devoted in part to an evaluation of the project.

Second, the Project Coordinator will meet with and survey farmworker groups to obtain the community's evaluation of the Project. This will occur after the Jubilados education program has been given in a geographic area.

Third, the project director will meet with and survey the legal service advocates for an evaluation of Jubilados. This evaluation will include both the program's legal work as well as Jubilados' community work.

F. PROJECT BUDGET

1. Non-Personnel Line Items

Supplies, postage, telephone - These are normal expenses.

Printing - Based on the anticipated costs of printing thousands of copies of the farmworker pamphlets and 50 to 100 lawyer manuals.

Travel - Due to the large number of farmworker training in the local communities this is the largest non-personnel item. The Board travel will cover the costs of two meetings.

2. NSCLC Financial Procedures

NSCLC has formal accounting procedures. Financial matters are handled by the Director of Administration and Finance and are supervised by the Executive Director and Deputy Director. All financial procedures meet the requirements of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Legal services Corporation and the California Bar Trust Fund.

NSCLC's books are audited by a certified public accountant on a yearly basis. Records are maintained on computer with an outside accounting service. Bank statements are reconciled monthly, while financial reports are prepared and reviewed by the Executive Director monthly, and the NSCLC Board quarterly.

STATEMENT ON

THE STATUS AND NEEDS OF OLDER HISPANIC FARMWORKERS

Presented by

Cristina Lopez
Ancianos Network Project Director
National Council of La Raza

April 24, 1990

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA
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NCLR
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA

STATEMENT ON THE STATUS AND NEEDS OF OLDER HISPANIC FARMWORKERS

BY

CRISTINA LOPEZ

ANCIANOS NETWORK PROJECT DIRECTOR

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA

I. INTRODUCTION

Mr. Chairman, and members of the Committee, on behalf of the National Council of La Raza (NCLR) I wish to submit the following statement on the living conditions of older Hispanic farmworkers for the record. I do so in my capacity as Director of the NCLR Ancianos Network Project -- a research and demonstration effort which focuses on the socioeconomic status of Hispanic elderly, assessing the needs of elderly Hispanics, and examining the services available to and used by this rapidly growing population.

The National Council of La Raza serves as an umbrella organization for more than 100 Hispanic community-based groups nationwide which provide education, health, employment, housing, and social services to about one million Hispanics annually, including the elderly. As an advocate for the more than 20 million Americans of Hispanic descent, including Hispanic farmworkers, NCLR strongly supports the Committee's effort to gather information on the quality of life of older farmworkers.

Over the past decade, NCLR has become aware of both the rapid growth of the Hispanic elderly population and the difficulties our community faces in meeting their needs in culturally appropriate ways. From 1986 through 1988, NCLR carried out a preliminary analysis of the socioeconomic status of Hispanic elderly resulting in two major publications, **The Hispanic Elderly: A Demographic Profile**, and **The Hispanic Elderly: The Community's Response**. In addition, through the NCLR National Farmworker Center -- a resource and information clearinghouse for local farmworker and rural organizations within

NCLR -- the Council has sought to overcome the "informational void" on farmworkers by monitoring, and analyzing issues affecting the farmworker community. The picture which emerged has convinced NCLR that Hispanic elderly, in rural as well as urban areas, face serious socioeconomic problems and are not receiving adequate attention or services.

II. SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS OF OLDER HISPANIC FARMWORKERS

According to a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) report, **The Agricultural Work Force of 1987**, there were 2,463,000 hired farmworkers in the U.S. as of 1987. A hired farmworker is defined as any person 14 years of age and older, who was paid for farm work at any time during the year. According to the same report, approximately 338,000 or 13.7% were Hispanic.[1] These figures, however, are far from complete estimates of the total farmworker population. Retired farmworkers, for instance, are not included in the report; and migrant and undocumented workers are grossly undercounted. The USDA survey, which is conducted every other December, tends to interview year-round farmworkers and white students and housewives who are seasonal workers. It misses seasonal farmworkers who are migrating back to their home states for the winter months. According to state and local farmworker surveys, ethnic minorities are 70-90% of the seasonal labor force in labor-intensive agriculture in most areas of the country.[2]

Furthermore, it is estimated that 1.3 million Special Agricultural Workers (SAWs), also excluded from the USDA report, applied for legalization under the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) of 1986; of these at least 80% have been or are likely to be approved. Thus there are at least 1,040,000 additional farmworkers; approximately 80% or 832,000 of whom are Hispanic. It is reasonable to conclude that there are more than 3.5 million farmworkers in the U.S., at least one-third of them Hispanic.

The great majority of farmworkers are under 45 years of age. Of the 338,000 Hispanic hired farmworkers reported by USDA, 11.1% percent were between 45 and 54 years of age, 4.4% were between 55 and 64 years, and 3.3% were 65 years and over. Agricultural work is arduous, and most workers last only 10 to 15 years before back problems, other health conditions or younger workers force them out of the higher paying harvest work. Older farmworkers keep working at lower wages, move into easier farm jobs, or find nonfarm occupations. Because of harsh working conditions, the aging process appears to reach farmworkers earlier than other workers. Given their short lifespan, estimated in one survey to be just 49 years for migrants, older farmworkers cannot be defined as those 60 and over. When discussing farmworker statistics, younger subgroups must be considered.

Although the living conditions of elderly Hispanic farmworkers differ from those faced by urban elderly Hispanics, these groups share many of the same concerns. Thus, the problems faced by aging Hispanic farmworkers should be considered within the context of issues involving all older Hispanics.

Elderly Hispanics have low median incomes and high rates of poverty. In 1987 the median income for Hispanic elderly was $4,483, almost $1,000 below the poverty threshold for an individual 65 years and over. The median yearly income for Hispanic farmworkers aged 65 and over was about $4,000; more than one-third of Hispanics 65 and over in non-metropolitan areas lived below the poverty level in 1987. Approximately 47% of Hispanic farm residents were poor in 1987.

Hispanics are the least educated elderly subgroup; one-third of the Hispanic elderly have less than five years of education, the minimum required for literacy according to the standard definition. The picture for older farmworkers is even more dismal. According to 1980 Census data, some 80% of Hispanic farmworkers 65 and over, and 77% of those 55 to 64 years of age, had completed less than eight years of school. Language is an additional barrier for elderly Hispanic farmworkers. More than half of Hispanic farmworkers age 55 and older speak English poorly or not at all. This is sometimes true even when they are native born, due in part to discriminatory practices which excluded many farmworkers from access to an education.

III. CRITICAL NEEDS OF OLDER HISPANIC FARMWORKERS

The scarcity of data and research on older Hispanic farmworkers is a major barrier to resolution of their existing condition through policy and program strategies. Many federal agencies still do not collect or publish disaggregated data on the Hispanic population overall; lack of information on older Hispanic farmworkers is particularly evident. What little information is available on Hispanic seasonal and migrant farmworkers varies from agency to agency, depending on who is gathering the data; and figures frequently seem to be arrived at through speculation or "guesstimates" (i.e., number of farmworkers, life expectancy). Problems and needs must be well documented before action to solve them can be successfully advocated. More than a decade ago the Roybal Amendment (P.L. 94-311) directed federal agencies to "develop methods for improving and expanding the collection, analysis and publication" of social statistics on Hispanics. Yet basic information on Hispanics (i.e., health information, including morbidity and mortality data, and the number and proportion of Medicare and Medicaid recipients) is still not consistently collected, separately tabulated, analyzed, or published. Hispanics are not sufficiently oversampled in many national surveys to generate reliable and valid data or subgroup information.

Hispanic elderly, especially older Hispanic farmworkers, cannot count on a financially secure retirement. Nearly one in four Hispanic elderly does not receive Social Security. Hispanics are also less likely to receive pensions or other retirement benefits; consequently, they tend to depend on earnings and public assistance. Because older Hispanic farmworkers have worked at low paying jobs, they are likely to receive minimum or near minimum benefits when they retire.[3]

Another factor which negatively affects retirement benefits for older farmworkers, as for most Hispanic elderly, is that many are forced to leave the work force before retirement age for health reasons. Demographic data indicate that the already high "indices" of poor health and poor nutrition among farmworkers continue to rise. Access to health providers and continuity of care is much more difficult for migrants than for most Americans. Many farmworkers have never been to a dentist or had a vision check.

Farmworkers suffer the greatest number of heat-related illnesses and the highest rate of chemical injury of any occupational group. According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), about 50% of heathy individuals will suffer from heat-related illnesses when performing physical labor in hot weather without drinking water. Between 80,000-90,000 farmworkers are injured each year by agrichemicals; of these about 800-1,000 die from their injuries. These injuries could be eliminated by having water available during the day for drinking purposes and for washing areas exposed to pesticides. Due to a lack of decent toilet facilities, farmworkers transmit diseases such as viral hepatitis, gastrointestinal diseases, and parasites to each other, and suffer high rates of urinary tract infections (UTI). According to one study, farmworkers suffer 3.5 times as many cases of UTI as the urban poor; UTI is especially high among women.[4]

Exposure to dangerous working conditions and physical injuries is substantially greater for farmworkers than for other workers. It was not until 1987 that OSHA issued final field sanitation regulations requiring agricultural entities employing more than 11 workers to provide drinking water, toilets and handwashing facilities to their employees. Yet, these basic sanitation regulations which have been proven effective in preventing communicable disease, pesticide poisoning and lethal heatstroke, frequently are still not being enforced today.

Housing conditions are dismal for farmworkers in general, but particularly for older farmworkers. According to 1980 Census data, over 13% of the housing units occupied by Hispanic farmworkers between the ages of 55 and 64 and more than 18% of those occupied by Hispanic farmworkers aged 65 and over lacked plumbing. Partly because of high poverty rates, farmworkers face special difficulties in obtaining and maintaining decent, affordable housing. While public attention has been focused on problems of homelessness and poor housing in central cities, housing problems are also severe in rural areas, especially for older farmworkers and large families.

Lack of access to community-based services is a major problem for elderly Hispanics, especially for migrants. Elderly Hispanic farmworkers are almost certainly greatly underserved by programs funded through the Older Americans Act (OAA). Title III of the Act emphasizes that preference will be given to older persons with the greatest economic and social need, particularly low-income minority individuals. However, data from the Administration on Aging (AoA) reveal that participation by minority elderly persons in OAA Programs has dramatically declined in this decade, from 22% of all clients in 1980 to 17.5% in 1985.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

There needs to be more extensive collection, tabulation, analysis and reporting of data on farmworkers, according to ethnicity and age, by public agencies and recipients of public funding for elderly services. When collecting information, the agencies need to separate out and over-sample Hispanics; elderly Hispanics and farmworkers should be given particular attention. Vigorous Congressional oversight is needed to ensure full implementation of the Roybal Amendment, with special attention to providing data by age group and Hispanic subgroup.

A variable age formula which would take into account the number of years worked as well as age for Social Security benefits should be explored. Once the required number of quarters have been worked, Social Security ignores the numbers of years in the labor force. Hispanic farmworkers tend to enter the labor force at an early age, and therefore work as many or more years as other U.S. workers, yet because of work related health problems, many are forced to leave the labor force before the accepted retirement age. In addition, a short lifespan makes it less likely that they will enjoy the customary retirement benefits. NCLR recommends that the General Accounting Office (GAO), or another appropriate body, be requested to study the impact of current regulations and the potential impact that consideration of number of years worked would have on Social Security benefits for minorities.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) standards should be raised. The maximum SSI payment for a poor older person currently equals only about 75% of the official poverty threshold. Effective action to assure that persons eligible for SSI actually receive those benefits is also needed; only about 44% of Hispanic elderly who are eligible for SSI receive it.

Both health and mental health services must be expanded, made affordable, and placed in locations which are accessible to older Hispanic farmworkers. Health care is a critical issue for farmworkers, particularly for the elderly, especially because of serious health problems due to their work history and inability to afford basic health care when they were younger.

Measures which would assure reduction of health problem among the farmworker population must be supported and enforced by the appropriate government agencies. For example, OSHA must better enforce compliance with the Field Sanitation and Hazard Communication Standards. This could be accomplished partly by increasing the numbers of qualified field inspectors, and expanding farmworker education/outreach efforts.

More funds are needed for the development of decent, affordable housing in rural areas. In addition, housing policies and programs must be changed to encourage rather than discourage extended families. Currently, many federally-assisted housing units are not built to accommodate large families; many benefit programs, including housing assistance, frequently contain restrictive eligibility definitions which exclude extended family members. Federal funds for elderly housing are not given to those living with their families, yet the majority of older Hispanic farmworkers live with their children or other family members. Hispanic culture places high priority on keeping the elderly with the younger generations. Although a highly desirable practice, in a societal sense, it places the burden of caring for the elderly on the community and the family. The federal government should redefine "family" to include close, live-in relatives including grandparents for all housing assistance, and other cash and non-cash benefit programs. This would give families the option to maintain multigenerational living arrangements.

AoA should require that State and Area Agencies on Aging comply with strong targeting formulas in order to equitably serve low-income minority elderly. Intrastate funding formulas (IFFs) in states which do not appear to be meeting the needs of low-income minority elderly should be examined and adjusted. Recent developments -- for example, the Florida case, Meek v. Martinez -- encourage future efforts to increase minority representation in Title III programs; states without a minority "factor" in their IFF run the risk of having their formula overturned. Additionally, the General Accounting Office is preparing a report focusing on how many states have a specific minority factor in their IFF, and what weight is given to that factor in these formulas. This report should be helpful in identifying states which may be underserving Hispanic farmworkers.

Additionally, in the upcoming reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, intrastate funding formulas should be adjusted to reflect increased targeting of services to low-income minority individuals. The Older Americans Act emphasizes that preference will be given in State and Area Agency plans to providing services for older persons with the greatest economic and social need, particularly low-income minority individuals. Local groups are required to provide services to low-income minority individuals in at least the same proportion that the population of low-income minority elderly bears to the **total elderly population** in the area served by such providers (Section 306 (5)(A) of the Act). We believe it might be more equitable if local groups were required to serve low-income minority older persons in the same proportion that the population of low-income minority elderly bears to the **low-income elderly population.**

Finally, government agencies should improve coordination with Hispanic farmworker programs in order to reach the older population successfully and increase their representation in mainstream services, including health (Medicare, Medicaid) and income maintenance programs (SSI), and publicly-subsidized social services. Mainstream farmworker agencies which serve a large Hispanic population should have bilingual and bicultural staff in order to serve language-minority elderly more effectively.

The National Council of La Raza appreciates the opportunity to present our views and we thank Chairman Roybal and the Committee for their leadership in bringing national attention to the plight of elderly farmworkers. As always, we stand ready to assist the Committee in whatever way possible to assure that the needs and concerns of older Hispanic farmworkers are fully considered when drafting, enacting, and implementing legislation.

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AARP

STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD

OF

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED PERSONS

ON THE

PLIGHT OF OLDER FARMWORKERS

SUBMITTED TO THE

SELECT COMMITTEE ON AGING

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EDWARD R. ROYBAL

CHAIRMAN

June 4, 1990

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INTRODUCTION

The American Association of Retired Persons appreciates this opportunity to present a statement for the record on the continuing plight of older farmworkers. We applaud the leadership of the Aging Committee and Chairman Roybal on behalf of one of America's most disadvantaged groups.

Some of the nation's most persistent economic, housing, and health problems are concentrated in rural areas among older people. These problems are intensified for older minorities and women. In 1987, 80% of older black women living alone in rural areas had incomes below the poverty line. Poverty is especially acute in the South. The nine states with the highest rates of poverty for older people are all located in the South.

Older migrant and seasonal farmworkers face unique hardships, even compared to those associated with poverty among other rural older people. Life expectancy is under 50 years for older farmworkers, reflecting the dangerous and demanding nature of the labor and the low incomes of the workers. Farmworkers often experience problems associated with old age before reaching their fiftieth birthday. Disability rates are high -- 44.5 per cent of farmworker families include a disabled member.

Compounding problems associated with low incomes, older rural people generally have limited access to needed social services. The lack of services or transportation to needed services can mean losing one's home for many older rural people. These problems are greatly exacerbated for older farmworkers. Access to needed services for older farmworkers is often blocked by prejudice, language barriers, inappropriate eligibility standards, and a lack of outreach. Too many older farmworkers reach a point where they can no longer work, but are left without a source of income, without needed services, and without a decent home to provide shelter.

THE NATIONAL TASK FORCE ON OLDER FARMWORKERS

AARP's involvement with farmworker issues began in 1984 with the receipt of a letter from one of our members in Florida. The letter asked for the Association's technical assistance in developing a congregate housing facility for older farmworkers in Immokalee, Florida. Although AARP had developed materials on providing congregate housing and services, we had little data on the particular needs of older farmworkers. Indeed, some initial research quickly confirmed that little data existed.

To begin to address the shortage of data, the Association contracted with the Housing Assistance Council in 1986 to provide technical assistance and research on older farmworkers. The result was a report entitled, "After the Harvest: The Plight of Older Farmworkers." The release of the report in December 1987 became the occasion for a National Symposium on Older Farmworkers, the first such national gathering to specifically address the needs of older and disabled farmworkers.

The Symposium, in turn, led to the founding of the National Task Force on Older Farmworkers in 1988. For a little over two years, the Task Force has convened several times a year to share information on older farmworker needs and to consider ways to address those needs. To demonstrate the needs of older farmworkers, the Task Force conducted a tour across the state of Florida which focused both on the current living conditions of older farmworkers and on some innovative housing and services programs serving older farmworkers in the state.

The Task Force has been very effective in drawing attention to this much neglected problem. Network and local television and radio stations have run stories on the plight of older farmworkers. The national and local print media have also featured stories on older farmworker needs. Together these media have contributed to a heightened awareness of the urgent necessity for action to address the situation of older farmworkers. The Association applauds the Committee for holding this hearing and bringing this awareness to Congress.

The Task Force has also been working on two documents that provide needed guidance for future action in this area. In preparation is a publication offering technical assistance on innovative solutions for potential sponsors of housing for older farmworkers. This publication, which is based on a national survey of housing sponsors who are presently serving older farmworkers, provides case studies on the nuts and bolts of financing, management, and services delivery.

In addition, the Task Force prepared a position paper on legislative solutions needed to address the needs of older farmworkers. This position paper, which represents a consensus among participating members of the Task Force, has been released today in conjunction with this hearing. Rather than repeat the recommendations of the report, the remainder of our statement will highlight specific actions that Congress and the Administration could take to address the living situation of older farmworkers.

AARP'S RECOMMENDATIONS

1) Increase funding for new housing construction programs targeted to very low-income older people.

The Section 202 program for the elderly and handicapped has been effective in serving older farmworkers in projects located in Florida, Texas, and California. With a nonmetropolitan set-aside and a priority for minority sponsors, the program is especially well suited to serving older and disabled farmworkers. Recent Administrative changes have made the program more workable and should help to unclog the substantial construction pipeline of projects that have been funded but have been unable to go to closing.

In addition, the Association supports an amendment to the Housing and Community Development Act, offered by Representative Erdreich, to allow Section 202 funds to be used for the purchase of ECHO (Elder Cottage Housing Opportunities) units. These movable units are especially designed for older persons and will be used primarily in rural and suburban areas. AARP believes that ECHO units may be particularly useful for organizations serving older farmworkers because they could be located with an extended family or in conjunction with another facility, thereby serving the preferences and needs of many older farmworkers.

The Association also supports increasing funds for the Farmers Home Administration Section 515 program. More facilities should be built under this program with congregate facilities in order to serve frail and disabled residents.

2) More technical assistance should be provided to nonprofit sponsors of housing for older farmworkers.

The Association strongly supports expansion of the Section 106 technical assistance program for nonprofit sponsors of elderly housing. We urge Congress to activate the Section 106(a) grant program and expand its mission to include other types of financing beside Section 202 development. These technical assistance funds should be targeted to minority sponsors in underserved regions of the country so that the neediest groups are served.

3) Increase congregate services in federally assisted housing.

The Congregate Housing Services Program (CHSP) currently operates in only 60 sites nationwide despite a successful record of serving older and disabled people. No new sites have been added since 1983. In order to serve groups like older farmworkers, many of whom need services as well as housing to remain independent, Congress must appropriate additional funds. States must play an increasing role in providing matching funds so that effective congregate services programs can be initiated.

The Association also calls upon the Secretary of Agriculture to explore ways to target services offered by the Department, such as nutrition, transportation, and extension services, to rural housing sites serving low-income older people. Targeting USDA services would be especially appropriate for older farmworkers who have contributed so much to the success of American agriculture.

4) Increase outreach for entitlement programs such as Food Stamps and Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

The Association applauds the recent announcement of the Social Security Administration that it plans to increase its outreach efforts. Outreach is especially needed to minority populations and rural areas which have been badly underserved by entitlement programs. Information and staffing on these programs should take into account the cultural and linguistic variations among older farmworkers and other underserved groups.

5) Programs for home repair sould be increased.

Many older farmworkers own their homes, though rates of substandard living conditions are very high. Despite the success of the FmHA Section 504 home repair program, funding has been frozen for the past several years in nominal dollars. This has meant that the number of low-income older homeowners who can be served has been declining. As a result, FmHA reports that over 17,000 eligible applicants are waiting for Section 504 grants, a number that is five times that which can be served at current funding levels. The Association supports increasing the funding for this program to at least $20 million per year.

In addition, AARP supports an amendment to the 1990 Housing Bill to be offered by Representative Oakar that would add a home repair program at HUD. This amendment, which is patterned after a successful demonstration program at HUD, would provide seed money grants to nonprofit organizations who provide minor home repairs to low-income older and disabled homeowners. Special targeting for minority sponsors is also included.

Again, AARP thanks the Committee for the opportunity to express our views on the plight of older farmworkers. We look forward to working with this and other Committees of Congress to assure that effective action to address these needs is taken.

After the Harvest:

THE PLIGHT OF OLDER FARMWORKERS

A Report by the
Housing Assistance Council for
AARP
American Association of Retired Persons
Consumer Affairs • Program Department and the
AARP Minority Affairs Initiative

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After the Harvest:

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The American Association of Retired Persons is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to helping older Americans achieve lives of independence, dignity and purpose by providing a wide range of direct member benefits and services and a host of community services programs and activities, the Association has become the nation's largest organization of older citizens.

The Housing Assistance Council (HAC) is a national nonprofit corporation working to increase the availability of decent housing for rural low-income people.

The AARP Minority Affairs Initiative aims to improve the economic, social and physical well-being of the nation's older minorities by addressing issues that directly affect their quality of life. In particular, it seeks to improve living conditions, better job opportunities, greater participation in public/private programs and agencies, and increased awareness of the status of minority elderly and of their many contributions to our nation.

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Foreword

In 1984, AARP received a letter from a group of older volunteers in Naples, Florida. The letter requested technical assistance in developing a congregate housing facility for older farmworkers in the Naples area.

In responding to this request, AARP discovered that information on older farmworkers and their living conditions were scarce or nonexistent. For example, there are relatively few specialized housing projects for farmworkers in the United States, and little or no published material about them was available. In addition, greater public awareness of the problems encountered by the workers in these projects and elsewhere is needed.

Hired agricultural workers, many of whom work seasonally and migrate hundreds or even thousands of miles, are among the most vulnerable groups in America. Many have little or no practical education, and most have little hope of escaping the cycle of poverty in which they are trapped. As a group, these workers consistently rank as the lowest-paid in the nation despite the fact that they are often exposed to hazardous working conditions, pesticides and debilitating stoop labor. They frequently live in housing that lacks indoor plumbing or other amenities that most Americans take for granted. Perhaps most tragic of all is their estimated average life expectancy -- less than 50 years.

A 1981 U.S. Department of Agriculture study* was brutally frank about the plight of farmworkers in this country:

> By virtually any objective economic measure, farmworkers as an occupational group fall below minimally-accepted labor force standards. Society identifies much farmwork as socially undesirable and farmworkers as a severely economically disadvantaged group of laborers whose conditions, as individuals and as an occupational group, tend to be self-perpetuating. The public is concerned about the lack of equity in farm labor legislation and regulation, heavy reliance on foreign workers, the problems of migratory workers, and other social ills related to agricultural employment.

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* Ahearn, M.C., Health Care in Rural America USDA, ESCS, Ag. Info. Bulletin No. 428, 1981.

The public is far less aware of, and therefore less concerned with, the special problems that confront older farmworkers. Unlike their younger counterparts who can still work an eight, ten, or twelve hour day, many older farm laborers are unable to work at all. Most are economically impoverished, and many are ineligible for Social Security or federally-subsidized housing, and too frail to join their families during picking season migrations. For these individuals, daily living is a struggle, and many have no idea where to turn for help.

In an effort to assist these older farmworkers, AARP and the Housing Assistance Council (HAC) initiated the Older Farmworkers Housing Project, which is designed to:

* develop public awareness of the plight of older farmworkers;

* provide technical assistance to local groups which have the ability to develop housing projects for retired farm laborers; and

* recommend public and private activities to help alleviate the living conditions of older farmworkers.

This report was produced by the Project. It examines the lives and housing of older hired agricultural workers, reviews proposed housing projects, and examines areas of the country where older farmworkers are most numerous. It also profiles the nation's only housing project designed exclusively for older farmworkers, and examines prototypes for similar projects in other parts of the country.

We hope this report will inspire you and your organization to become involved in efforts to improve the housing situation of older farmworkers.

Cyril F. Brickfield

Cyril F. Brickfield
Executive Director, AARP

1.

Rural Housing and the Elderly

Farmworker's house: Las Milpas, Texas, colonia.

The problems faced by older farmworkers should be considered within the context of issues involving all older persons. The elderly (over-65) population in the United States is projected by the Census Bureau to grow from 20.0 million in 1970 to 35.0 million in 2000, a 75.0 percent increase. But the country's total population is expected to grow by only 31.9 percent over the same period. The over-75 population between 1970 and 1982 grew from 7.5 million to 10.7 million, a jump of 42.7 percent. (2) With increased longevity and an aging baby-boom group, the numbers of both over-65 and over-75 citizens will continue to increase rapidly.

The 1985 Economic Report of the President notes that retirement planning has become increasingly important for the nation as well as for families. The proportion of the population that is elderly ... will explode as the baby-boom generation retires. In 1900 one person in 25 was 65 years of age or older; to day that proportion is one in eight; by 2030 one person in five will be elderly. In about 35 years the United States as a whole is expected to have the same proportion of elderly as Florida does today. In 50 years the ratio of people over 65 to the working-age population will be 2 1/2 times as great as it was in 1950. No other demographic change will influence the nation in the next 50 years as much as this "graying" of America. Every American and every facet of society will be affected. (3)

This dramatic shift will obviously increase the need for services to the elderly. But in most states, few new nursing home beds are being provided because of moratoria on construction. Even before these moratoria, rural areas often had too few nursing home beds for those who truly needed nursing home care. Intermediate care facilities in rural America are even more scarce. And this scarcity, along with the fact that rural people are more likely than their urban counterparts to have health problems, has created a problem of crisis proportions. (4)

VICTOR ALEMAN COURTESY OF UNITED FARM WORKERS

After the grape harvest: Delano, California.

Rural areas also have large numbers of elderly persons who need appropriate and affordable housing. For example, in 1983 (the latest year for which full data is available), the poverty rate for the elderly was 12.1 percent in metropolitan areas, but 17.8 percent in non-metropolitan areas. Because of their poverty, many of these rural residents live in housing which is dilapidated and without basic amenities. For example, there are more than 300,000 rural elderly (65 years old and older) households which lack plumbing and 1.7 million households which have no central heating. Two-thirds of all elderly who live alone own their homes. But those in rural areas live on farms, in trailers, up hollows, or down dirt roads where their problems are often hidden from view in a picturesque landscape. (5)

In Appendix A, Table 1 shows the number and poverty rates of the elderly by race in 1983 for all areas and for non-metropolitan area. These numbers show that white, black and Hispanic older persons are more likely to be impoverished if they live in non-metropolitan areas.

It's easy to dismiss these older persons. They're often portrayed as couples in rocking chairs on the porches of rural shacks -- a quaint cliche which will inevitably disappear with the passage of time. But, unlike the elderly in cities, they're often too isolated to meet with each other or to organize on their own behalf. More than half the rural elderly poor live alone, and many have no vehicle or telephone. (6)

Among these rural elderly, housing opportunities are largely limited to those who can move into or near town, closer to transportation, health, food services and other people. For those who can't move, rental and long-term care facilities are in short supply, and even when they are available, they're often the least desirable housing options. Many rural elderly have dilapidated homes, but they often own them "free and clear," and appear to be inextricably attached to their land. (7)

Eventually, however, fully-independent living becomes impossible for most. One alternative is senior housing with supportive services such as meal preparation, housekeeping, transportation and home health care. This alternative is often referred to as congregate housing.

Congregate housing includes sufficient services to enable many partially-impaired elderly persons to remain in non-institutional settings. These services include at least one prepared meal per day, served in a group setting; housekeeping and personal care services; and transportation. Some health care as well as social and recreational activities are provided by many congregate housing centers.

Congregate housing is particularly needed because of the lack of long-term alternatives in rural and non-metropolitan areas. Many present and potential residents of nursing homes in fact do not need the level of expensive, full-time health care that is provided in a nursing home setting.

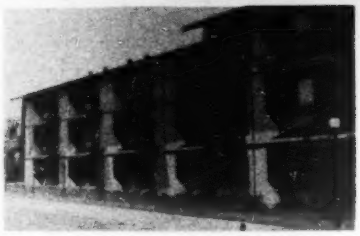
The Federal Government Response

Many older people in rural areas need and (if it's available) will use housing rehabilitation assistance or move to congregate units in their home communities. One resource for this kind of assistance is the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, particularly the agency's Section 504 grant and loan program for home repair and its Section 515 rental program.

The FmHA Section 515 rental program provides newly-constructed, affordable rental housing through the use of 50-year mortgages at one percent interest and a limited supply of rental assistance subsidies. The emphasis on new construction is due to the lack of suitable rural rental housing and the special design needs of the elderly.

Section 515 rural rental housing began in 1963 as a rental program for older persons. While the program's scope was later broadened to include families, it has maintained an elderly focus. FmHA officials have estimated that approximately 35 percent of the 330,000 housing units produced since 1963 have been for exclusive use by the elderly.

The FmHA also provides funds for farm labor housing. To be eligible to live in FmHA farm labor housing, tenants must receive a substantial portion of their incomes from farm labor and be U.S. citizens or permanent resident aliens. However, former farmworkers are not eligible for FmHA farm labor housing unless they were already residents when they were still employed as farmworkers. This restriction has effectively made this housing inaccessible to most retired farmworkers.



FmHA-sponsored congregate apartments: Kingsburg, California.

Current FmHA policy emphasizes repairs rather than new construction. The 504 program provides loans and grants for home repair for very low-income (50 percent of area median income) persons. In fiscal year 1985, this program provided $12.5 million in grants and $17.5 million in loans.

A leading model for congregate housing is the demonstration project initiated jointly by FmHA and the Administration on Aging (AoA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in 1979. The project was designed to support small apartment complexes in rural areas which had inadequate housing for the elderly. (8) Each of the ten projects sites was supported with $1 million in FmHA Section 515 low-interest rental housing loan funds.

AoA provided funds for such supportive services as meals and transportation under the Model Projects authority of the Older Americans Act of 1965.

An evaluation of the AoA and FmHA project, conducted in 1983, found it to be successful. The evaluation determined that congregate housing services could be provided, in 1983, for an average annual cost of about $2,500 per unit. Annual cost per unit for congregate services ranged from $2,075 in Iowa to $2,818 in New York. The cost per unit for land and construction ranged from $25,800 to $49,200. The evaluation concluded, among other findings, that:

- It is clearly possible to find credible developers who can and will join forces with agencies that serve older persons to build and successfully operate congregate housing in rural communities ....
- Congregate housing projects are meeting a need for housing and services in their host communities ....
- Most current tenants are well-satisfied with congregate living ....
- None of the projects appeared ... to have an "institutional atmosphere" .... (9)

As of February 1987, all of the original demonstration project sites were still functioning. In addition, ten other rural congregate projects have been established with FmHA Section 515 loans. This ongoing expansion and the success of the original projects demonstrates that the congregate housing model is a viable option for some rural elderly.

2.

An Overview of Older Farmworkers

VICTOR ALLMAN/COURTESY OF UFW

In the fields near Oxnard, California

Within the broader group of rural elderly, older farmworkers have special concerns and needs. But statistics on the size and status of this population, like data on farmworkers generally, are imperfect. In this report, we've surveyed the available information on this sub-population, recognizing that it has its limitations -- primarily the fact that most of the data sources apply to active workers.

Older farmworkers cannot be defined rigidly as age 65 and over. Given the shorter lifespans, harsh working conditions, and early retirement of many farmworkers, younger subgroups -- for example, 45 and over, and 55 and over -- are included in the discussion of older farmworkers in this report.

Biannually, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service publishes The Hired Farm Working Force (HFWF), a statistical report on farmworkers drawn from the Census Bureau's annual Current Population Survey. (10) The 1983 report, the latest available in the series, indicates that there are 2.595 million migrant and seasonal farmworkers in the United States. (Migrant farmworkers travel across state or county lines and stay away from home overnight to do agricultural work. Seasonal farmworkers labor in their home areas without staying away overnight.)

It's important to note that the HFWF numbers may be a low estimate. A 1977 study for the Legal Services Corporation estimated 5.003 million migrant and seasonal farmworkers in the United States, almost twice the 1983 HFWF figure. (11)

In Appendix A, Tables 2 through 11 include the HFWF data for 1983, which reveal a number of important facts. Older persons comprise a relatively large part of the total migrant farmworker population, particularly among minority farmworkers (especially blacks). Women are also an important force among older farmworkers. Many older farmworkers work at least 40 hours a week in agricultural labor, and are more likely than their younger counterparts to earn a substantial part of their incomes from agricultural labor.

The Hired Farm Working Force Report shows the following:

* Of 2,595,000 hired farmworkers (migrant and seasonal) in 1983, 17 percent were age 45 or older and nine percent were age 55 and older. (Table 2)

* Older migrant farmworkers were a large proportion of the total migrant population. Of 226,000 migrants in 1983, 24 percent were age 45 or older and six percent were at least 55 years old. (Table 2)

* Fourteen percent of white hired farmworkers, 20 percent of Hispanic hired farmworkers, and a substantial 28 percent of blacks and other hired farmworkers are age 45 or older. (Table 3) Figures show that 73 percent of farmworkers are white, but this may be a high estimate and is a subject of dispute among farm labor experts.

* Among farmworkers of all ages, only 16 percent live on farms. However, among farmworkers age 45 and older, 21 percent live on farms. (Table 3)

* Twenty-four percent of farmworkers age 45 and older are women. Among black and other farmworkers age 45 and older, 33 percent are women. Females age 55 to 64 make up a relatively large proportion of the total farmworkers in that age group -- 32 percent -- but women are only 22 percent of the total of farmworkers of all ages. (Table 4)

* Half of all hired farmworkers age 65 and older worked less than 25 days on farms in 1983, but 24 percent of this same age group worked 150 days or more. (Table 5)

* A fairly large proportion -- 46 percent -- of male agricultural laborers age 55 to 64 worked 150 or more days annually. Among female farmworkers in the same age group, 40 percent did 150 or more days of farmwork in 1983. (Table 6)

* Of 973,000 farmworkers who did less than 25 days of hired farm labor in 1983, 13 percent were age 45 or older. Of black and other farmworkers who did less than 25 days of work, 27 percent were 45 or older.

Among Hispanic farmworkers who worked 25 days or less, 13 percent were 45 or older. (Table 7)

- Of 888,000 who did 25 to 149 days of farmwork, 15 percent were at least age 45. Among blacks and others, 21 percent were age 45 or older. (Table 8)

- Older farmworkers comprise a larger proportion of the population that spends more than 150 days doing farmwork. For example, of 735,000 persons who did 150 or more days of farmwork in 1983, 26 percent were age 45 or older. Thirty-eight percent of the blacks and others and 26 percent of the Hispanics who did 250 or more days of farmwork were age 45 or older. (Table 9)

- A comparison of Tables 10 and 11 show that farmworkers age 45 to 54 earn 76 percent of their income from farmwork. Those age 55 to 64 earn 64 percent, and those 65 and over earn 65 percent of of their income from agricultural labor.

- Farmworkers age 55 to 64 have total annual median earnings of only $4,470, and those 65 and over have only $962 in median earnings.*

- Table 12 shows that younger Hispanics, whether they live in metropolitan or non-metropolitan areas, have much higher levels of education than their over-45 counterparts. Those with less education will probably have a more difficult time dealing with the problems of old age. They may be intimidated by government forms, checking accounts, hospital admission forms, credit applications and other types of paperwork. Intimidation may increase with advancing age. (From Frank Fratoe, USDA, 1981)

- There is also extensive disability among farmworkers. A 1974 study for the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare found that 44.5 percent of the nation's farmworker households had at least one disabled member. Over 31 percent of the heads of farmworker households said their work capacity was limited because of a physical, mental or emotional disability. Household heads in the United States as a whole have a disability rate of 10.6 percent. (12)

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* In 1979, the poverty threshold was $7,412 for a household of four and $3,599 for a household of one. By 1985, the poverty threshold was $10,900 for four and $5,470 for one.

'Older farmworkers are a mostly unseen part of the labor force . . .'

VICTOR ALEMAN COURTESY OF UFW

Housing Assistance Council Older Farmworker Survey

In addition to the statistical review drawn from the Hired Farm Working Force, the Housing Assistance Council (HAC) conducted its own survey of state farmworker organizations. (See Bibliography). Interviews with housing or other experts representing organizations in 25 states, completed in December 1985, revealed some important facts: (13)

* None of the states surveyed has a housing project specifically for older farmworkers.

* In a majority of the states surveyed, there are housing projects that house older farmworkers and other older persons who have worked in a variety of occupations.

- In nearly 80 percent of the states surveyed, farmworker activists interviewed felt that the condition of older and retired farmworkers' housing is poor or very poor. In the remaining 20 percent of the states, older farmworkers' housing was perceived to be in fair condition. In no state was this housing stock felt to be in good, very good or excellent condition.

- Among the states surveyed, an unweighted average of 84 percent of elderly farmworkers earn less than $7,500 in annual income; 67 percent earn less than $5,500 annually.

- An unweighted average of 67 percent of elderly farmworkers are male; 33 percent are female.

- Most older farmworkers are renters or live with other family members who rent. However, ownership is more prevalent in some states -- Oklahoma and Iowa, for example. According to respondents in Texas, over half that state's older farmworkers own their homes.

- Most often, retired farmworkers live with an adult child's family. Very few are in long-term care facilities. And the remainder live alone or with their spouses.

- Survey respondents were also asked to identify types of income and other support received by older farmworkers. The results are shown in Table 13. Food stamps are an important source of support for this group in many states. In 44 percent of the responding states, all or almost all older farmworkers receive food stamps. But in 61 percent of the states, almost none or none of the older farmworkers live in subsidized housing. In 46 percent of the responding states, almost none or none have earnings from employment other than farmwork.

- Table 14 shows that older farmworkers often have specific kinds of health problems. For example, in 34 percent of the states, over half the older farmworkers have heart or circulatory problems. In 53 percent of the states, over half of the states, half or more of the older farmworkers have health bone, joint or muscular problems. And in nearly half or more of the older farmworkers have health problems resulting from exposure to pesticides.

U.S. Bureau of the Census Data

HAC also analyzed housing and demographic data collected by the Bureau of the Census for older farmworkers in several key states. The California Human Development Corporation (CHDC) provided data extracted from the U.S. 1980 Census of Population and Housing. Appendix Tables 15 to 23 show major findings from this data for the nation and for three important farm labor states -- California, Florida and Texas. The numbers are roughly parallel to the USDA HFWF results, although that study does not include any information on a state-by-state basis. Both studies show that California and Texas farmworkers are mostly Hispanic, and in Texas many workers migrate north to follow the harvests. Florida farmworkers are more likely to be black.

Table 15 shows that there were 240,000 hired farmworkers age 55 and older in the United States in 1980. (The USDA study reported 248,000 in this age group in 1983.) Of the total, 164,000 were white, 36,000 black, 28,000 Hispanic, and 11,000 of other races. In the 55-and-over age group, California alone had almost 37,000 farmworkers, Florida over 16,000 and Texas almost 21,000. (Tables 16 to 18)

Nationally, relatively large numbers of black farmworkers are likely to live in housing with inadequate plumbing facilities. Almost 34 percent of black farmworkers over age 65 and nearly 30 percent of black farmworkers between 55 and 64 live in units with incomplete plumbing. (Table 19) In Texas and Florida, and to a lesser extent in California, both blacks and Hispanics often live in housing without adequate plumbing. (Tables 20-22) These are the conditions of the permanent homes of older farmworkers, rather than the temporary housing they might occupy while in the migrant labor stream. The temporary housing is usually worse in terms of overcrowding, lack of complete plumbing and other problems.

Housing in rural colonias: 14 people live in this house.

Educational levels are often quite low for older farmworkers. Table 23 shows that four of five Hispanic farmworkers age 55 and over have less than eight years of schooling. Fewer than one in ten of this group is a high school graduate. Elderly black farmworkers are almost as poorly prepared. Four of five such workers age 65 and older have less than eight years of education.

The CHDC data also show that language is frequently a barrier for older Hispanic farmworkers. Over 53 percent of Hispanic farmworkers age 55 to 64 speak English poorly or not at all. Of Hispanic farmworkers age 65 and older, 56 percent speak English poorly or not at all.

Unfortunately, older farmworkers are a mostly unseen part of the labor force when they are active workers. And once retired, this group of mostly low-income persons may slip even further from public view, particularly if they have no support from family members and are ineligible for public assistance. Poverty, housing deficiencies, poor health and other problems clearly mark this group as a population at greater risk than nearly any other segment of society.

VICTOR ALEMAN/COURTESY OF UFW

Many elderly are valued family members and want to live with their families.

3.

A Case Study of Older Farmworkers in South Texas

VICTOR ALLMAN/COURTESY OF UFW

Near Lamont, California.

To shed light on the status and housing of older farmworkers, the Housing Assistance Council conducted a brief case study of conditions in south Texas. This area, the Rio Grande Valley, is the home base for most migrant farmworkers in Texas. In terms of poverty and unemployment, it is also one of the nation's most depressed regions. For example, during all of 1985 and 1986 the McAllen-Edinburg metro area in Texas had the nation's highest unemployment rate (McAllen is the valley's principal city). Of 86 U.S. counties with poverty rates of 33.3 percent or higher in 1980, 12 are in south Texas. Starr, one of the 12, is the nation's second poorest county, with a poverty rate of 50.6 percent. The Valley also has the only two urban counties (i.e., within Metropolitan Statistical Areas) with 1980 poverty rates of 30.0 percent or higher. They are Cameron and Hidalgo, two of the four counties featured in this case study. (14)

In the southern most Rio Grande Valley many older or retired farmworkers live in substandard housing (i.e., units that are overcrowded or without complete plumbing) -- with families or alone -- as homeowners. Many are ineligible for benefit programs such as Social Security and Supplemental Security Income. They are often isolated, without transportation or telephone. Census data show there are at least 10,000 elderly (65 and over) or retired farmworkers in the southernmost four-county area bordering Mexico, 4,000 of whom live alone.

The rental housing programs in the area bypass the elderly farmworker (though it is not known how many of these farmworkers are actually homeowners). Some farmworkers will not leave the home and land they own because they represent security. And many do not qualify for either HUD Section 202 housing or FmHA farm labor housing in the area because of their very low incomes and/or status as aliens.

Weatherization programs do not offer assistance on a scale large enough to have a significant impact on elderly farmworkers.

The Rio Grande Valley is the entry area and subsequent home base for many Mexicans and Central Americans who immigrate to the United States. In the four counties on the US-Mexico border, most of the population is primarily Spanish-speaking, and most of the foreign-born population is comprised of recent immigrants from Mexico (see Table 24). There are no reliable figures on the number who become farmworkers, but area residents say that most of the rural settlers in the region work or have worked in the fields on a migrant or seasonal basis.

According to Texas Rural Legal Aid, nearly all the migrant and seasonal farmworkers in Texas are Hispanic. Almost one-half reside in the Rio Grande Valley, and almost 80 percent of these individuals have annual incomes far below the poverty level. (15)

Most south Texas farmworkers live in colonias, which are the rural equivalent of urban barrios (Hispanic neighborhoods). Colonias are usually overcrowded settlements occupied by Mexican-Americans. They seldom have sewage facilities, a clean water supply, electricity or paved streets. They are often in flood-prone areas and rely for waste disposal on septic tanks, which are likely to contaminate any wells on the lots because the clay soil does not "perk" (drain). Instead, it cracks, and the cracks may conduct waste to the water supply.

Colonias spring up as private developers buy, grade and subdivide large tracts of land, then sell lots (generally from 2,500 to about 5,000 square feet) for about $7,000 to $20,000 each, with short-term financing at high interest rates. The staff of Colonias del Valle, a south Texas anti-poverty organization, estimated that the private developer reaps a 60 percent profit from a colonia. The profitability of colonias is evident from their rapid proliferation: one interviewee calculated that the number of colonias in the Lower Rio Grande Valley had increased since 1968 from 60 to 136, with 50 to 200 homes in each.

With the sale of lots, the developer's responsibility ends. The absence of building codes outside the cities is apparent from the ensuing variety of self-constructed dwelling types, shapes and colors, and from the obvious lack of amenities.

Most colonias have dirt or clay roads and overcrowded lots, with tiny, dilapidated dwellings and adjacent outhouses. Often, one-room dwellings are inhabited by large families. Homes are seldom insulated and poorly caulked. Non-weather-resistant indoor paint is often used on their exteriors.

Water must be hauled from nearby cities or from irrigation ditches that are often contaminated with pesticides. In the one colonia in which an FmHA-financed water supply project was installed, HAC staff visited a family of six whose shower was outside next to the outhouse, and who complained that they had to pay $400 for a hook-up to the local water system. (Others reported higher fees of up to $500). Such costs are prohibitive for most individual colonia households, and it is not uncommon for several homes to be connected through water hoses to one meter.

Data on conditions in the colonias are difficult to obtain, but there are some estimates. According to the United Farm Workers, 41 percent of farmworker homes in the colonias have no indoor toilets, and 20 percent have no direct access to safe drinking water. According to Colonias del Valle, which operates a weatherization program for the poor, 70 percent of colonia homes are eligible for weatherization assistance because of the low incomes of their occupants. The weatherization program in 1985 had applications from 650 households, of which 180 were actually assisted.

Progress is conspicuous for some families, particularly among those with members who have "gone north" for employment. Households have added rooms or entirely new houses as their incomes grew. Consequently, their lots often contain a series of brightly colored units, increasing in size and amenities. Such signs of improved incomes did not, however, bring the communities up to acceptable standards, and are not evident among the homes of the elderly who live alone.

Progress in a colonia: Owner had 'gone North' to find work and was able to make some improvements.

The Older Farmworker Population of South Texas

It's difficult to obtain reliable information on the farmworker population as a whole, but it's even more difficult to determine the number of farmworkers who are now retired or elderly, in order to assess their housing needs. Estimates have been made based on interviews with persons familiar with the area. Tables 24 and 26 show that most of the area's elderly residents and even larger proportions of the elderly poor (including those who live alone) are primarily of Spanish origin. Interviewers were told that at least half of the area's elderly residents would have past or current employment in agriculture, and that the proportion would rise for those who are poor or of Spanish origin. It is noteworthy that, especially for the population of Spanish origin, the poverty rate increases with age. Table 24 shows that 43 to 54 percent of the elderly of Spanish origin over the age of 65 are poor.*

It's clear that a concentration of older farmworkers lives in the four counties concerned, and that they are likely to overlap the 10,000 elderly poor of Spanish origin. It's also likely that most live in the inadequate housing prevalent in the colonias. There are some elderly housing projects in the area, but older farmworkers are generally excluded from these because of their lack of Social Security documentation. Moreover, Census poverty statistics do not include those elderly living in nursing, convalescent, or rest homes for the aged in other institutions which might offer adequate shelter.

Table 27 provides some indicators of living conditions for elderly households of Spanish origin. Most own their homes, but a relatively high proportion lack telephones, vehicles, plumbing, kitchen facilities, and other standard housing features. This table does not include the living conditions of the many elderly of Spanish origin who live with their families and are no longer counted by the census as heads of households. Since Table 27 includes the elderly of all income levels, it also may not reflect the housing needs of the poorest elderly -- those most likely to be farmworkers.

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* In using these figures, the limitations of the sample used in this report should be kept in mind. The year the census was taken (1980), the small area involved, and the known census undercount of Spanish-origin households are mitigating factors. Poverty, population size, and the number of colonias in the region have all increased since 1979, the year for which 1980 census poverty statistics were gathered. However, the four-county border area chosen for analysis probably offers the best population base for estimating numbers of farmworkers in the entire Rio Grande Valley.

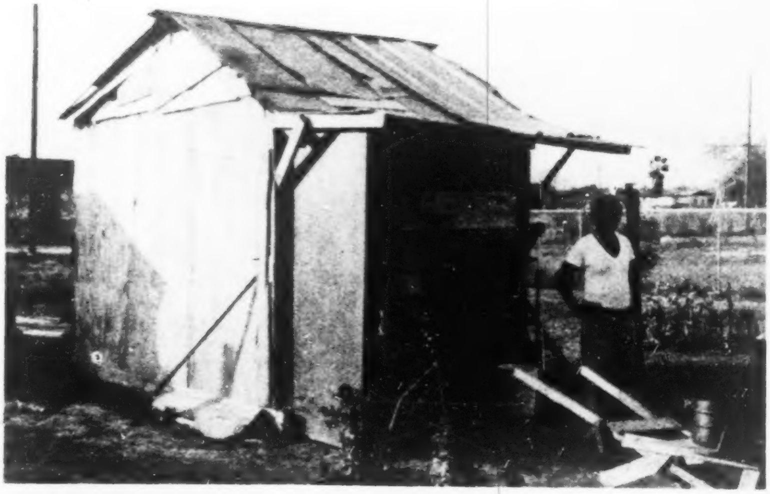
It is not known how many of the area's elderly live alone, but one measure of isolation may be the census figures on "unrelated individuals." The 1980 Census reported more than 4,000 elderly unrelated individuals (i.e. single persons of Spanish origin, age 65 or older, with incomes below the poverty level in the four-county area of the valley (see Table 26). The poverty rate for unrelated individuals increases sharply with age and Spanish origin; ultimately, more than three-fourths of single elderly persons of single elderly persons of Spanish origin are poor.

Interviews with staff of the United Farm Workers Union, the Texas Farm Workers Union, and two community-based nonprofit organizations, Colonias Del Valle and Amigos Del Valle tended to support census data. These groups pointed out that most older or retired farmworkers live in poor, uninsulated, self-constructed housing which they own. The majority live with family members, although a significant number live alone. They are generally unable to obtain much or any Social Security due to their lack of documented employment. One farmworker advocate described her father, who had worked from age 12 to 65 in the fields and now at age 67 receives $225 a month in SSI. He also receives $10 a month in food stamps. This low level of assistance means that he must still work, driving a tractor.

Most older farmworkers reportedly want to live near or with their families, and would rather receive rehabilitation and modification assistance to improve their homes than move into a rental project.

Mr. C, a deaf and retired 59 year-old farmworker, lives in a one-room shack in Colonia Charro neighborhood, and is not eligible for Social Security or SSI benefits. His wife has left him, and is living with his children in Florida. He has worked in the United States for ten years, but has lived in this Colonia for only five months.

Mr. C's home is, at most, 90 square feet. The floor is dirt; the roof and walls have gaps that expose the inside to the weather. He has no plumbing or electricity, but he has an outhouse and get water from a neighbor's hose. He burns wood in a small stove for heat. He receives $60 a month in food stamps, which provides him one meal a day.



Colonia Charro, in Texas: The floor is dirt; there is no plumbing or electricity.

Mr. C paid $6,000 for his lot in 1981 and is unwilling to move unless he can sell it for that much. He is very anxious about surviving the winter months.

There are hundreds of similiar cases in Hidalgo, Cameron, and Willacy Counties. Mr. C. may be eligible for FmHA Section 504 assistance (home repair for low-income persons) as his deafness would give him a priority for loan assistance.

Health problems of Older Farmworkers. According to a study by the University of Texas Medical Branch (Galveston), the incidence of influenza and pneumonia, tuberculosis, strep throat, hepatitis, and scarlet fever is much higher among farmworkers than among other Texas residents. The United Farmworkers Union reports that in 1985 there were 225 Mexican-American leprosy patients along the Gulf Coast and the Lower Rio Grande Valley. A 1979 study found that another 300 Mexican-Americans are privately treated at health clinics in the Rio Grande Valley, often for leprosy. (16)

The Catholic Valley Home Health Agency confirms the relatively high incidence of housing-related health problems, such as tuberculosis, which is attributed to considerable crossing back and forth across the border. The Agency also reports a relatively high incidence of respiratory and communicable diseases, particularly in communicable diseases, particularly in winter; and diarrhea and dysentery, especially in areas where outdoor toilets are used. Other notable health problems, not necessarily housing-related, are relatively high incidences of heart disease and diabetes.

The lack of medical care is a major problem. Older farmworkers have few resources for transportation, are generally far from city services, and have no health insurance. They lack the documentation needed for eligibility for Medicare or Medicaid. Although some agencies will take patients who cannot afford to pay and who have no documentation, few find their way to a home health agency. Many older farmworkers live alone, are unaware of this resource, and do not go to a doctor who might refer them to the agency until, in one staff persons word's, "They're half dead." As the figures in Table 27 show, many do not have a vehicle or telephone and may be dependent upon a neighbor or friend to drive them to a doctor.

Other Sites

Weslaco Housing Authority. The Weslaco Housing Authority operates a Section 514/516 FmHA farm labor housing project of 289 units in the Rio Grande Valley. This project is particularly interesting because it was established by the Farm Security Administration in the 1930s. Its rents are low, beginning at $76 a month (including utilities) for a one-bedroom unit, compared to the estimated local market rent of $250 plus utilities. About 70-80 households with migrants live in the project.

Only two residents are thought by the project manager to be retired farmworkers because, as mentioned previously, former farmworkers are not eligible for FmHA farm labor housing unless they were already residents when they became farmworkers.

The Rio Grande Valley: Weslaco Housing Authority farm labor housing project.

Military Highway Water Supply Corporation. Military Highway has developed water facilities for 5,000 families, including 25,000 people in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. The corporation was developed to provide water service to colonias. Water districts have existed in the Lower Rio Grande Valley since 1937, but they provided water for irrigation only. Residents of colonias were stymied in their attempts to influence the corporation's decision-making. Even though they and other area residents were required to pay "fees" (essentially, water district taxes), they weren't allowed to vote or run as water district candidates because they weren't farmers. A legal services lawsuit filed on their behalf succeeded in having the fee requirement dropped, but not in gaining access to the water district government.

Ultimately, support for a water supply corporation came from the Catholic church, which provided $350,000 to cover the "meaningful user" contribution required by the FmHA for a loan. Military Highway then obtained loans from both FmHA and the Economic Development Administration (EDA).

HAC staffers were taken to see a colonia in Las Milpas, served by Military Highway with FmHA financing. Residents of this colonia had reported that water service hook-up fees were prohibitively high; a local advocate explained that these fees covered costs for late-comers to the service, and that Military Highway was exploring ways to lower costs.

HAC also saw Military Highway's first sewer project, for a colonia in Progresso. Construction was being delayed by condemnation proceedings against a local homeowner found by the Public Health Department who lived too close to the lagoons. Eventually, 380 colonia homes will be served.

In addition, Military Highway has built 50 bathrooms in another colonia, making use of a development grant from the Department of Health and Human Services.

Amigos del Valle. Amigos del Valle, a nonprofit organization has developed three Section 202 elderly housing projects, in Brownsville (100 units), McAllen (72 units) and Harlingen (55 units). Together they contain 227 units.

The McAllen project, called Casa de Amigos #2, has 72 apartments, a community building, an office and a non-rental unit for a staff member. Of the 72 units, six have two bedrooms (789 square feet) and 66 have one bedroom (613 square feet). Eight of the one bedroom units are for the physically handicapped. The project was initially occupied in 1982 and has a 100 percent occupancy rate with a waiting list. Per unit cost of construction was $29,130. Contract rents are $433 for one bedroom units and $517 for two bedroom units; utility allowances are $35 and $46, respectively. The tenant's monthly average rent for both one and two bedroom units is $56.

Although the housing director stated that 86 percent of the residents were of Spanish origin, he estimated that no more than half of these would have been farmworkers, because, "in the age bracket concerned, most wouldn't have Social Security," and would not qualify as tenants. So, at most, 110-120 of Amigo's Section 202 units are occupied by former farmworkers.

Colonias Del Valle. Colonias, a community-based nonprofit organization, has a weatherization program with a very long waiting list. Several local people said that the program's first-come, first-served policy prevented it from meeting emergency needs. As discussed earlier, the program served over a fourth of the nearly 650 who applied for assistance in 1985. It is likely that many others who may be in need are discouraged by the waiting list or are unfamiliar with the resource. The wait may be as long as one year.

Other projects. There are two other church-sponsored retirement centers in the area, and both Colonias del Valle and Amigos del Valle are proposing additional Section 202 projects.

A number of interviewees suggested that the most appropriate approach to elderly farmworker needs would be rehabilitation or new construction assistance for homeowners, rather than rental housing assistance. Two reasons were given:

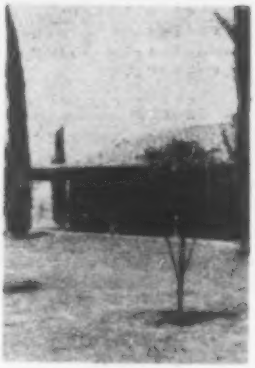
- Reportedly, Texas farmworkers, unlike farmworkers in Florida and California, generally own their homes. They are attached to the land, which provides them with some security, freedom, equity, and supplemental resources, such as gardens.
- The extended family dominates the culture. Most elderly are valued family members and want to live with their families, even in deplorable housing conditions. HAC staff saw much evidence confirming these circumstances, including many detached units provided for grandparents on their children's land.

On the other hand, Amigos del Valle reports that demand is high for units in elderly rental projects. It is unclear if these units are sought by colonias residents or other farmworkers, but they are undoubtedly sheltering elderly. It is likely that Amigos del Valle and other agencies in the area will continue to operate elderly rental housing projects. At least some rental units already exist; this may be an additional reason to emphasize homeownership assistance, which aside from minimal weatherization resources, is virtually absent from the area.

Homeownership assistance in making repairs to houses like this one is virtually absent from many areas.

4.

Housing of Older Farmworkers: Models of Existing and Planned Projects



Agbiyani Center: Delano, California.

As discussed earlier, there is relatively little housing designed and operated specifically for older farmworkers, and only a few projects are currently being planned. Most of these projects are located in (or planned for) agricultural areas in Florida, California, and Texas.

California. The Paulo Agbiyani Retirement Center, located two miles outside Delano, in Kern County, California, is reportedly the oldest and perhaps still the only retired farmworker housing project in the nation. It was constructed by the United Farm Workers Union (UFW) in 1974 and 1975 for single Filipino men who are retired farmworkers. Typically, these men came to the United States (without families) from the Phillipines several decades ago. Many worked in the fields, never married and are now without family support structures during their later years.

Paulo Agbiyani was an elderly Filipino farmworker and early UFW supporter. While walking a union picket line in the 1960s, Agbiyani suffered a heart attack. He was turned away from the local Delano hospital, in keeping with that institution's policy of not admitting Hispanics and Filipinos. Desperately ill, Agbiyani died enroute to another hospital in more distant Bakersfield. The housing facility was named in his honor.

The Agbiyani Center is part of the UFW's "Forty Acres" complex, which includes several other UFW buildings, among them a regional union office and an inoperative health clinic. As of May 1986, 37 retired Filipino farmworkers occupied the center. All the residents were men, although in the past there have been two women and one couple. The UFW is actively trying to fill the remaining 21 rooms.

The project has 58 single rooms; all of them have approximately 225 square feet of floor space. The first two feet of the 16-foot room depth provide closet and entrance hall space, so that the actual room dimension is 14 feet x 14 feet. Every two rooms share a large bath. At one end of the bathroom is a large, built-in locker or closet for additional storage. Each room is furnished with a bed, desk, chairs and dresser, but many residents have provided their own furniture. Each room opens onto both an interior hall and an exterior courtyard. The rooms are small but cozy, attractive and well maintained.

The project is laid out in a large "U", with kitchen, dining room, office and community rooms in the center. Bedrooms radiate from the center at the bottom of the "U". Both common and private spaces face onto an attractive central courtyard filled with plants and trees. Outside the "U" are extensive individual garden plots and chicken coops.

The United Farm Workers Union constructed the Agbiyani Center, 'perhaps the only retired farmworker housing project in the nation.'

The project charges its residents $175 a month -- $75 for meals and $100 for room rent. Comparable local rents are $200 to $250 a month for room only. Most residents receive Social Security benefits and/or Supplemental Security Income, but few have any other sources of financial support. The average income for residents is approximately $565 a month.

The center offers three meals a day, seven days a week. There is no transportation service, but an inexpensive taxi is available and several residents have private automobiles. For special trips involving several residents, the center often hires a van. The dining room and the main communal room adjoin each other through a large, open threshold. Both are pleasant, comfortable and decorated with memorabilia. The center's office is next to the communal room. Meal service is cafeteria style, and everyone is responsible for clearing, scraping and sorting his or her own dishes, utensils and food scraps.

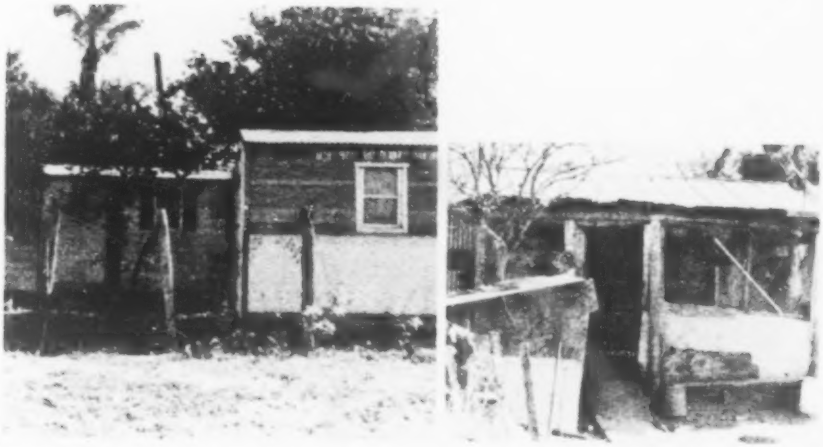
Most of the center's residents, who range in age from 63 to 88, came to the United States in the 1920s and 1930s seeking work. A pre-World War II California law forbade Asian marriages to non-Asians, so most of the Filipino workers who live at the center were left without family resources at retirement, although one tenant has a family in Delano, and several married, despite the state's miscegenation statute.

The center's manager, like most UFW professional workers, is a volunteer, although she receives a small living allowance from the union. The three-person kitchen staff is paid.

The building cost just over $260,000 to construct in the mid-1970s. Most of this expenditure was for materials. Volunteers, including many from trade unions, provided most of the labor, planning and design for the project. Funding came from internal UFW loans, particularly from a loan made by the Union's Farmworker Fund to the Service Center, the UFW's property management division.

Most residents seem glad to be a part of the center. When asked where they might be living if the center didn't exist, most said their circumstances would be greatly reduced.

Florida. The Concerned Citizens of Collier County (CCCC), a nonprofit community-service organization in southern Florida, has been working for several years to develop a congregate facility for elderly persons who are retired from farmwork. CCCC has received a donated 40-acre tract in Immokalee, Florida, which will be used for the congregate project and several other related efforts. Habitat for



Farmworker housing near Imokalee, Florida: focus of the Concerned Citizens of Collier County.

Humanity, a nonprofit self-help organization, will construct houses for moderate- and low-income persons on the largest portion of the tract. The county's Guadalupe Social Services will use another parcel for a community center, and several other related uses will occupy the remaining acres.

Thus far, CCCC has been unable to secure the Community Development Block Grant funding needed to develop the site. CCCC's present goal is to obtain the block grant funds in 1988, then proceed with the planned project.

There are also several other Florida groups interested in housing for older farmworkers. The one closest to developing a project is the nonprofit housing group, Neighbors Organized For Adequate Housing (NOAH), in Belle Glade. Palm Beach County has allocated $5 million for housing-related activity in the area, and NOAH has assembled staff, land and assistance in putting together a bond issue. NOAH is interested in the housing needs of older farmworkers and has plans to put a Section 202 project in Belle Glade as part of its overall efforts. NOAH staffers are interested in looking at ways to include older people in the 131-unit complex they hope to build.

Texas. The Texas Farmworkers Union (TFU) has for several years been developing plans to sponsor one or more retirement communities. The union is interested in developing housing for older farmworkers on union-owned land in Harlingen and on land between McAllen and Pharr. It hopes to build small duplex units, each with a bedroom, bath and living room/kitchen, that would be affordable to retired farmworkers. Because union members will undertake construction, with subcontracts for only the electrical work, the only costs incurred will be for site improvements and construction.

A local bank has indicated to TFU an interest in providing permanent financing on favorable terms for the TFU project. HAC has indicated to TFU that construction financing might be available from HAC loan funds. TFU plans to apply for a loan to be considered by HAC's loan committee.

TFU calculates that it can build six duplexes (12 units) for a total cost of only $69,000 (or $5,750 per unit). The interested bank is tentatively prepared to lend this amount at ten percent interest for 15 years, yielding a monthly payment of $62 per unit. At 12 percent interest for 15 years, monthly payments would be $69. TFU estimates that total housing costs, including utilities, would be $100 to $125 per month. No services such as meals or housekeeping are planned.

Costs of retirement housing can be reduced by using volunteer time of the residents in performing maintenence and repairs.

VICTOR ALEMAN/COURTESY OF UFW

DENISE R. STEPHENSON

Farmworker housing: Teviston, California.

TFU also plans to reduce the cost of this housing by using the volunteer time of the residents. They propose to require each resident to contribute approximately ten hours per month to answer telephones and do other light office tasks for the union. Experienced union members would be on call to help with maintenance problems and repair of the project. In addition, a small amount of each tenant's monthly rent payment would go into a pool for future electrical or other work union members could not perform.

One of TFU's spin-off organizations, Salud y Educacion por El Campesino de Texas, Inc., has produced a planning document calling for "a rural, energy-efficient, rental, self-reliant retirement community" in the Rio Grande Valley. According to this report,

> The retirement community will attempt to accommodate 20-40 aged adults with incomes below poverty level, whose work background and cultural consciousness warrant a communal design with energy conserving accommodations.
>
> [The] main objective in the design of this retirement community is to give the elderly farmworker the possibility of having decent housing and a room for their grandchildren, so that they can provide care for them, temporarily, while the parents are working ... (17)

The unusual concept of providing an additional room for visiting grandchildren is based on TFU's sensitivity to farmworker traditions.

5.

Design Features in Congregate Housing for Older Farmworkers

VICTOR ALEMAN/COURTESY OF UFW

Older farmworker: Napa, California.

Congregate housing is one possible solution for the housing needs of retired farmworkers. This chapter covers selected design features that should be included in such a congregate project. Several factors are important: projects should include common space areas; unit designs should incorporate ease of accessibility and use for residents; cultural factors must be recognized; and costs should be kept to a minimum.

Congregate projects for farmworkers differ in some ways from proprietary congregate housing in that all the residents would share a common employment history. Because the older population in each farmworker community is relatively small, the projects would be small in size and could be established with a sense of community. Some residents are likely to know each other before taking up congregate occupancy. There also may be some recreational and cultural considerations. For example, in the California-based Agbiyani Center, there is ample space around the building for gardens, parking and animal pens, as the Agbiyani residents are very interested in gardening, collecting and working on automobiles and raising chickens. (See chapter 4).

Design concepts should also attempt to make congregate projects as "homelike" as possible, by providing an opportunity for socializing and for privacy. Particularly important are designs -- such as parking lots and ample common-rooms -- which take into account residents' desires for visits from their families.

As with any housing project for low- and moderate-income individuals, congregate development and management costs are an important consideration. Holding down such costs is particularly important in an era of fiscal austerity. For cost reasons and reasons of simplicity, it may be useful to follow FmHA guidelines for congregate projects. For example, construction should be economical and not use extravagant plans or excessively expensive materials. For the most part, projects should also be one or two stories to save expenses for elevators, and individual units should be relatively compact in size.

Congregate housing requires attention to certain design features particularly in the bathroom and kitchen. Wheelchair access is important, as are safety features such as handles and grab bars for help in pulling oneself up, steadying oneself and walking. For retired farmworkers, stooping and bending to reach low shelves or cabinets may be difficult, due to muscular or skeletal ailments developed during a life of stoop labor. Thus, low cabinets and drawers should be kept to a minimum.

A prototype. In keeping with these economic, cultural and physical considerations, HAC has developed a prototype design consisting of a rectangular structure, with 18 individual and two double units facing onto two open courtyards. Ten single units surround one courtyard on three sides. Eight singles and the two double units surround the other courtyard. The double units have private baths. The single rooms have shared commodes between two units, and there are four bath/showers. Eight single units share two bath/showers in the upper courtyard, while ten units in the lower courtyard share the other two bath/showers (see Figure A).

In the center of the complex, dividing the two courtyards, are the main hall, kitchen, storage and maintenance areas, and a caretaker's apartment.

The main hall is for dining, recreation, meetings and other general purposes. At one end is a sitting/reading/ television area. Costs permitting, a fireplace can be a pleasant addition for this area. At the other end of the main hall, abutting the kitchen and cafeteria-style food service area, are dining tables which can serve other functions at non-meal times. The main hall is centrally located to allow ease of access for all tenants. Its walls, facing into the courtyards, should consist entirely of windows. This will allow light into the hall and provide a sense of spaciousness through the length of the project.

Around the perimeter of the courtyards, hallways lead from rooms to the baths and the main hall. In warm climates, these hallways could be covered but open on the sides.

The enclosed courtyard is a popular architectural style in Mexico and other Spanish-speaking countries. This style may prove familiar and comfortable to some retired farmworkers of Hispanic origin. In keeping with this style, it might prove useful to incorporate a tile roof and white, stucco exterior walls. This approach should also readily fit into surrounding neighborhoods in the southwestern United States.

The HAC project would cost an estimated $315,000 for total acquisition and construction expense, or $15,750 per unit. This estimate is based on a cost of $39 per square foot for the $8,064 square foot project (with dimensions of 84 by 96 feet). The $39 cost figure is arrived at through comparison to other projects. For example, a recent non-elderly farm labor housing project planned by a nonprofit group and submitted to HAC for loan consideration cost $687,000. The project's 17,630 square feet meant a cost of $39 per foot (see Appendix B).

Other Designs. The HAC prototype envisions new construction. Another option is to rehabilitate a facility. Figures B and C are plans for an attractive and well-designed congregate facilities in Massachusetts. These projects have made use of historic buildings which might otherwise have been abandoned or destroyed. The building in Figure B, the Peter Bulkeley project, was constructed in 1911 as the Peter Bulkeley school.

The project in Figure C is an older house with a substantial addition. The addition was built specifically to enlarge the original house into a congregate facility. Both these Massachusetts projects may be too expensive for the relatively limited resources which will, in most cases, be available for farmworker congregate housing. However, the Massachusetts projects do contain elements that would prove useful in any low- to moderate-income congregate housing. For example, shared baths and single rooms rather than apartments will be more economical.

Other designs for older farmworker housing are also included in this report. The Agbiyani Center complex in California -- Figure D -- has units in two wings radiating out from a central kitchen, dining and sitting rooms. Tenants have private rooms with a bath shared between every two rooms.

The Collier County, Florida, plan -- Figure E -- envisions a 12-unit congregate facility with shared baths, an enclosed courtyard, and a caretaker's apartment.

FIGURE A:
Plan for Farmworker Congregate Housing

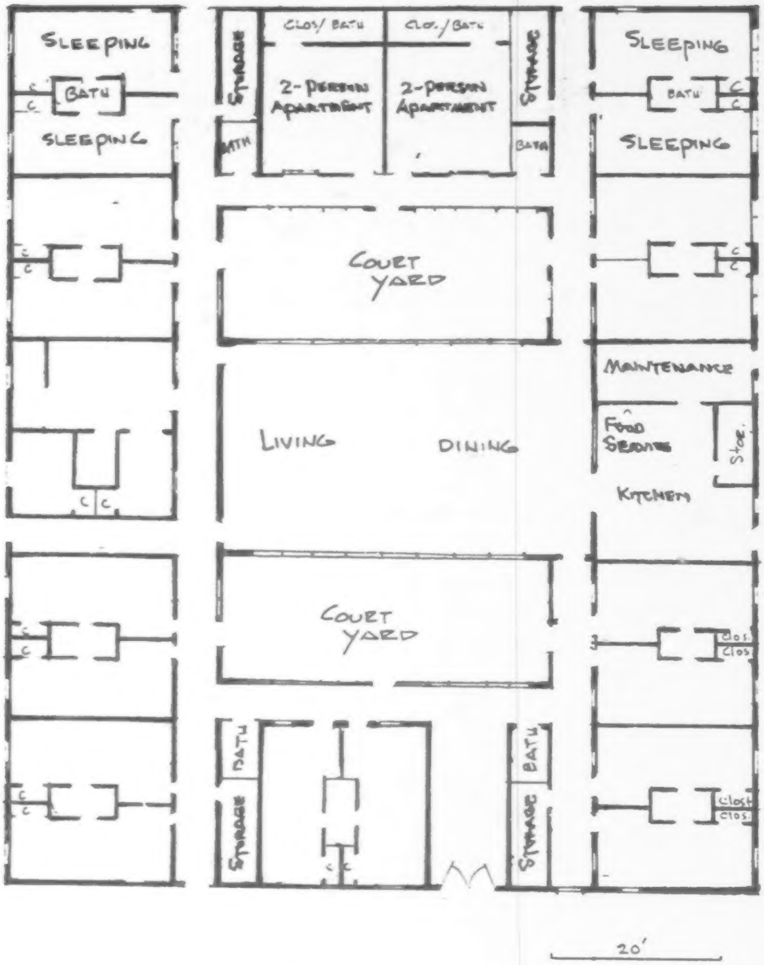
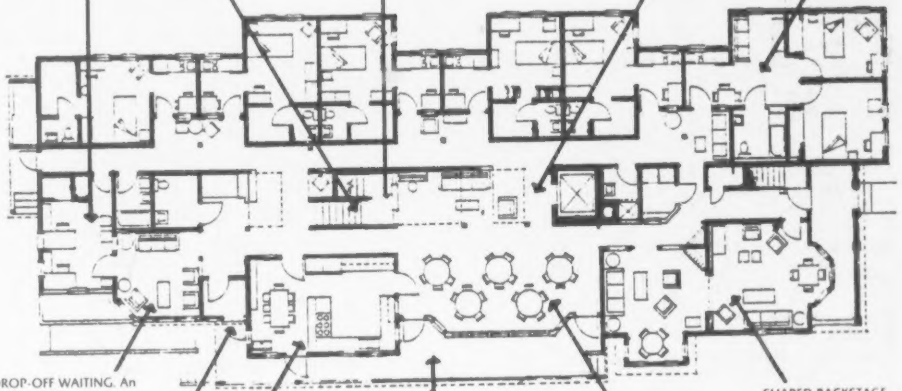

SLEEPING
BATH
SLEEPING
C
C
STORAGE
BATH
CLOS./BATH
CLOS./BATH
2-PERSON APARTMENT
2-PERSON APARTMENT
STORAGE
BATH
SLEEPING
BATH
SLEEPING
COURT YARD
MAINTENANCE
LIVING
DINING
FOOD SERVICE
STOR.
KITCHEN
COURT YARD
Clos.
Clos.
BATH
STORAGE
BATH
STORAGE
Clos.
Clos.
20'

FIGURE B:
Plan for Congregate Housing, Hyannis, Massachusetts



UNOBSTRUSIVE CARE. Residents will not feel they are in a facility in which others are caring for them because the office is small and out of the way.

HEALTH. Residents will frequently use main stairs near entry and it will be healthy for them.

PREVIEWING. Residents will use the midway stair landing to decide if they want to join activity below.

SOCIAL EXCUSE. Residents will wait for the elevator as an excuse to be part of the activity in the central hallway.

SOCIAL MIX. Two-person units with bath will attract more active residents and couples.

DROP-OFF WAITING. An overlook of the car drop-off from inside will help residents feel at ease waiting indoors to be picked up.

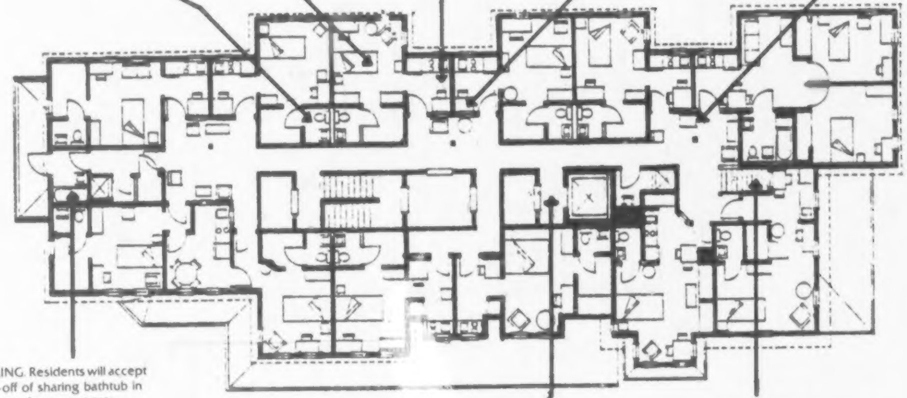
PROXIMITY. Because the main entry is visible nearly from Main Street, residents walking home will not feel it is a long walk.

HOMEYNESS. Having an eat-in kitchen for group coffee will be an integral part of residents seeing the whole house as "home."

IDENTITY. The house "front porch" will be central to residents image of the building and will be used to describe it to others.

SUPPORT. One hot meal a day in a common dining room will enable residents to be independent the rest of the time with minimal help.

SHARED BACKSTAGE. Residents will use the living rooms of the old house extremely informally like their own apartment to wait for laundry to dry and to watch TV.



ENVIRONMENTAL SUPPORT Having a private toilet for themselves will insure that older residents feel the environment supports them.

PRIVACY CONTROL. The bedroom privacy the design provides will enable residents to "open" the kitchenette without feeling ill at ease.

INDEPENDENCE. Being able to prepare small snacks and meals will help residents maintain a sense of independence.

INSIDE OUT. Snack table in kitchen, dutch doors, and interior window will allow residents to feel part of house life while remaining safe in their "home."

DISPLAY. Residents will put furniture and paintings on their "front porches" to express who they are.

SHARING. Residents will accept trade-off of sharing bathtub in exchange for congregate amenities.

PREVIEWING. Residents will look down below from elevator landings to prepare themselves better for social encounters.

SOCIAL ESCAPE. Residents will feel more comfortable using back stairs to get to Laundry and TV room, when in a dressing gown.

SECOND FLOOR

FIGURE C:
Plan for Peter Bulkeley Congregate Elderly Housing, Concord, Massachusetts

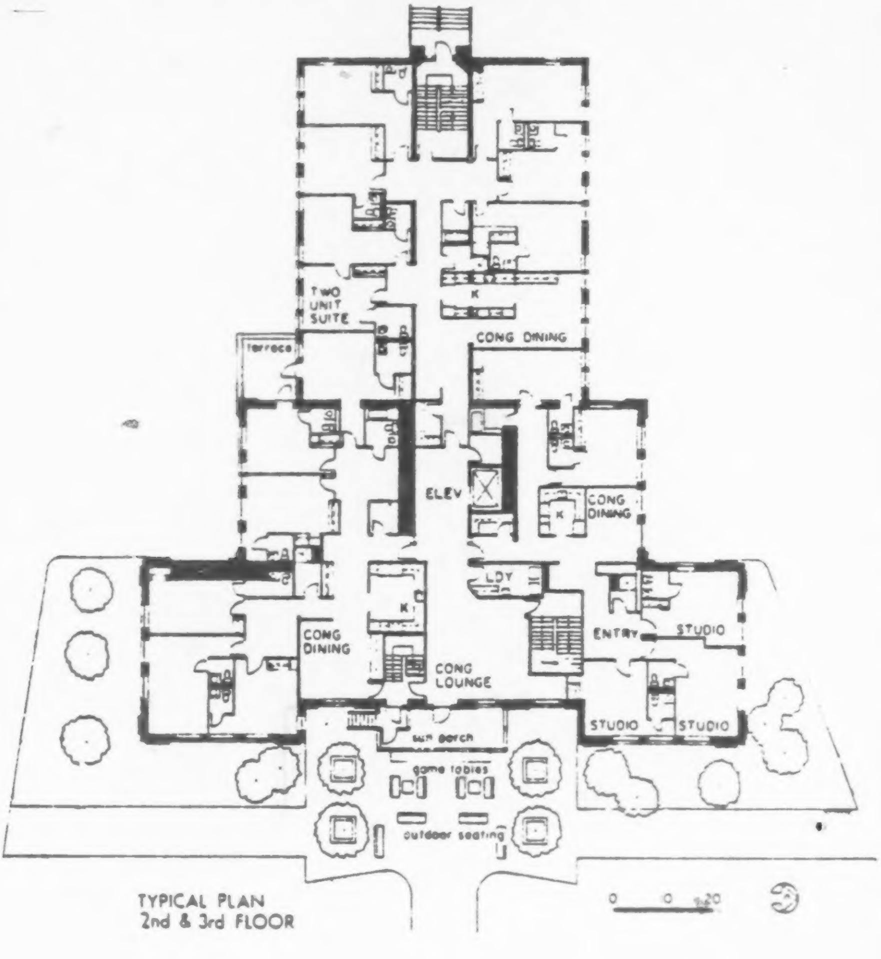

TWO UNIT SUITE
terrace
K
CONG DINING
ELEV
CONG DINING
K
LDY
K
CONG DINING
ENTRY
STUDIO
CONG LOUNGE
STUDIO
STUDIO
sun porch
game tables
outdoor seating
TYPICAL PLAN
2nd & 3rd FLOOR
0
10
20

FIGURE D:
Paulo Agbiyani Center, Delano, California

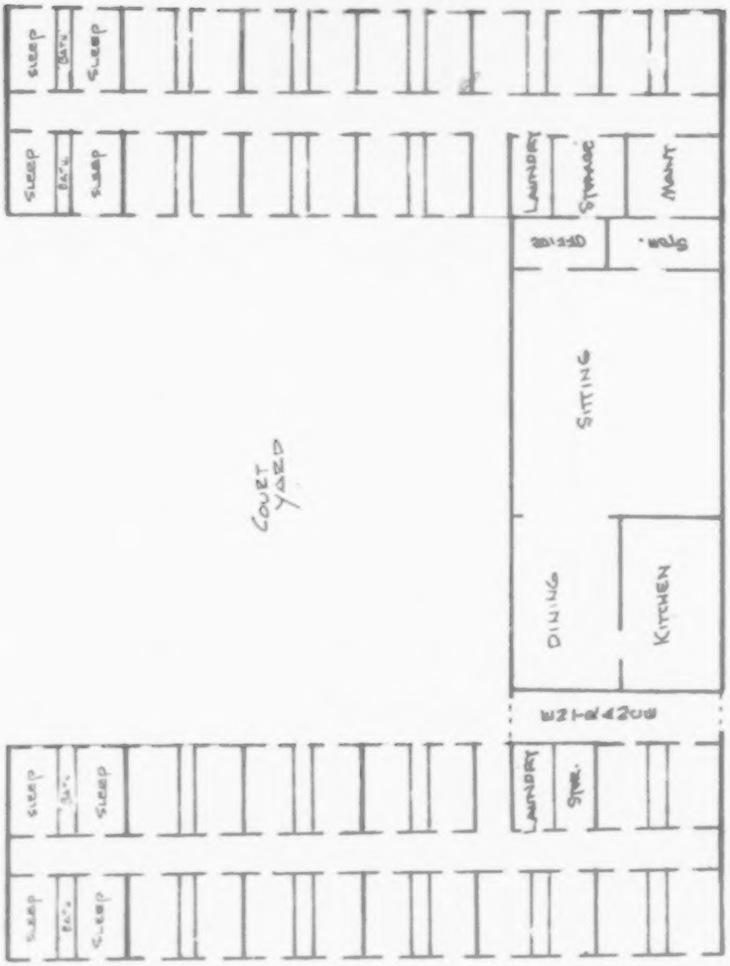
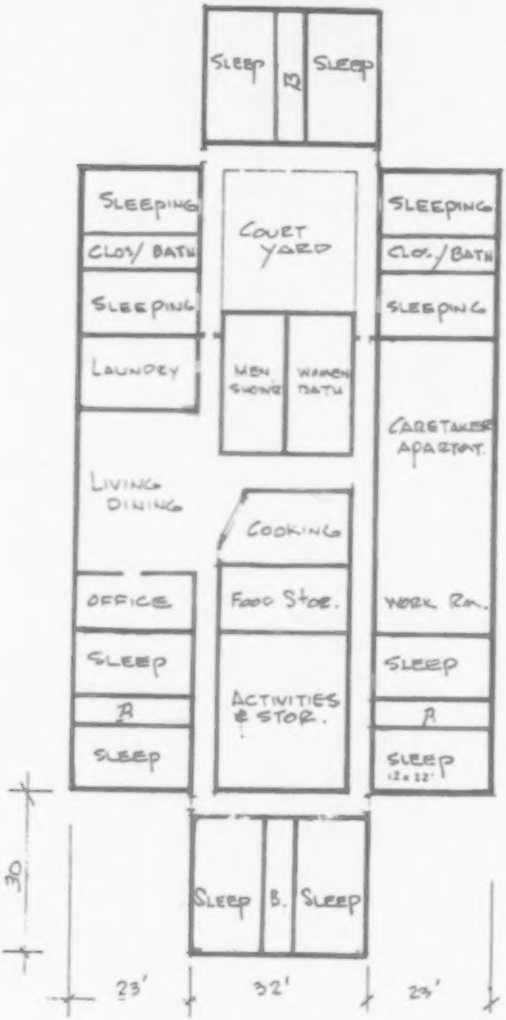

SLEEP
BATH
SLEEP
LAUNDRY
STORAGE
MAINT
OFFICE
STOR.
SITTING
COURT YARD
DINING
KITCHEN
SHOWERS
LAUNDRY
STOR.

FIGURE E:
**Project Imokalee,
Imokalee, Florida**


SLEEP
B
SLEEP
SLEEPING
CLOS/ BATH
SLEEPING
LAUNDRY
COURT YARD
MEN SHOWR
WOMEN BATH
SLEEPING
CLO./BATH
SLEEPING
CARETAKER APARTMT.
LIVING DINING
COOKING
OFFICE
FOOD STOR.
WORK RM.
SLEEP
B
SLEEP
ACTIVITIES & STOR.
SLEEP
B
SLEEP 12x12'
30'
SLEEP
B.
SLEEP
23'
32'
23'

6.

Recommendations and Conclusion

'Providing housing for older farmworkers is usually a low or non-existent priority.'

As has been documented in this report, farmworkers are a population faced with serious problems. Many face hardships such as toxic drinking water, malnutrition, low education and income levels, and poor health care. Farmworkers focus most of their energy on surviving today, not on planning for tomorrow. For many housing is a luxury item and decent housing is often inconceivable.

Unfortunately, providing housing for older and retired farmworkers is usually a low or non-existent priority for government and farmworker groups. But after a lifetime of toil, older farmworkers need to be a priority. Their problems are characteristic of the entire farmworker community, whose plight is unknown by most Americans.

The difficult question is: How can decent housing be provided to older farmworkers when intolerable conditions are faced by nearly all farmworkers? The answer lies in gaining a better understanding of how older farmworkers' problems relate to all farmworkers, and how these problems can be solved collectively. To promote better understanding the following advocacy initiatives are recommended:

Information. The attention of the general public, the media and policy makers can be drawn to the plight of older or retired farmworkers. For example, the broadcast and print media can be urged to examine the issues concerning older farmworkers.

In 1982, media exposure concerning the effects of the citrus-fruit freeze brought about public pressure for improvements in farmworker living conditions. However, the need for assistance was only partially met and should again be forcefully impressed upon policymakers. The July 1986 hearing on farmworkers before the House Select Committee on Hunger, while not focusing specifically on the elderly, was a useful step. Congressional hearings might reveal important policy strategies, and other nonprofit farmworker, housing, and aging organizations could participate in hearings, calling for greater Congressional attention to the problems of older farmworkers.

State and Local Government. State and local policymakers should also be made aware of these issues. The Kentucky Housing Corporation (KHC), for example, has set up a $1 billion housing trust fund to make low-interest loans to low-income persons. The fund has made grants to help the low-income elderly make energy-saving home improvements, and released $1.2 million to subsidize salaries of Vietnam veterans hired to work in low-income housing construction. (18)

Technical Assistance. Efforts should continue to help local organizations build housing for retired farmworkers. The UFW project in California is an excellent model for a housing project. There are several groups in Texas, Florida and elsewhere that are capable of and interested in developing projects. Technical assistance should be designed to help leverage both public and private financial sources.

Financial support. HAC, which has been making rural housing loans since 1972, can provide predevelopment loans to qualified projects for older-farmworker housing. In addition, other public and private financial sources can be examined. For example, HAC often makes compensating deposits of its funds in local banks and thus persuades these banks to lend to local nonprofit developers. HUD Section 202 direct loans are another source of funds, as is the FmHA's rural rental and congregate housing program.

Rental Versus Owner-Occupied Housing. The projects envisioned in this report are rental, but serious consideration should be given to developing resources for owner-occupants who are either elderly farmworkers or whose families include elderly farmworkers. Resources could include rehabilitation assistance, subsidies for "ECHO" or "granny flat" units, or support for nonprofit organizations engaged in packaging applications for federal government rehabilitation and new construction subsidies.

A Conference. This issue would benefit from a conference or meeting of experts and advocates on farmworker housing, the elderly and other relevant interests. Their exchange of information and ideas could help further the goal of providing help to older farmworkers by clarifying the basic issues, starting a dialogue, identifying common problems and areas of agreement, and proposing an agenda for future action.

Heathcare. In addition to serious housing deficiencies, older farmworkers face health problems common to other older persons. This segment of the older population is also more susceptible to illnesses such as respiratory diseases, problems due to pesticide exposure, work-related accidents, and bone, joint, and muscular problems. Judging by the low rate of medical attention received by this group, federal, state, and private-sector efforts are needed to study older farmworkers health needs, and problems, increase health care services, and if necessary, broaden eligibility for health care reimbursement.

Conclusion

The measure of a just society is found in its treatment of the least fortunate among its members. In late 20th-century America, the very young and the very old remain at the top of any list of our most disadvantaged and vulnerable citizens. Among occupational groups, farmworkers have always been severely disadvantaged. Thus, when "farmworker" and "elderly" are combined, it is abundantly clear that we are describing a group of people who are often very much in need of help. They are also a group that has been mostly out of sight and out of mind. That can and should be changed.

Notes*

(1) USDA, *A Time to Choose: Summary Report on the Structure of Agriculture.* Washington, D.C. 1981, p. 133.

(2) U.S. Department of Commerce, *Bureau of the Census, Abstracts of the U.S.: 1985,* p. 27.

(3) U.S. Executive Office of the President, *Economic Report of the President.*

(4) The prevalence of hypertension, coronary heart disease, hypertensive heart disease, ulcer, hernia, gall bladder disease, and emphysema is all higher in rural places, Kane, "Problems in Rural Health Care."

(5) U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Characteristics of the Population Below the Poverty Level.*

(6) See Housing Assistance Council, *Taking Stock and High-Poverty Counties in the United States.*

(7) In 1983 (the latest year for which complete statistics are available), there were 58.7 million occupied housing units in urban areas of the United States. Of these, 41.3 percent were rental units. But of the 25.9 million rural occupied units in 1983, only 21.6 percent were rental. U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Annual Housing Survey: 1983,* p. E-1 and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(8) Ten sites were chosen for demonstrations:

- Riverside County, California
- Decatur County, Iowa
- Lake County, Michigan
- Claiborne County, Mississippi
- Carroll County, New Hampshire
- Sierra County, New Mexico
- Chautauqua County, New York
- Baker County, Oregon
- Charles Mix County, South Dakota
- Accomac County, Virginia

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* Footnotes cited are taken from publications listed in the bibliography.

(9) Cronin et al, An Evaluation of the FmHA-AoA Demonstration Program, pp. 66, 215, 265-268, 1983.

(10) The Hired Farmworking Force study has been used in this report because it is the most readily available and detailed analysis of agricultural workers. Pollack, The Hired Farm Force of 1983.

(11) Lillesand et al, An Estimate of the Number of Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers.

(12) Cortes, Handicapped Migrant Farmworkers.

(13) The 25 states included Arkansas, Delaware, Iowa, Kansas Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

(14) For more detailed information, see Housing Assistance Council, Taking Stock, High-Poverty Counties in the United States.

(15) Texas Rural Legal Aid, Farmworkers and Workers Compensation p. 3.

(16) Miller and Maril, Poverty in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas.

(17) Texas Farmworkers Union, Building A Self-Reliant Community.

(18) Herbers, "States Forced Into Lead on Housing for the Poor," New York Times.

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Appendix A: Tables

Table 1

Elderly Persons Below Poverty Level*, 1983

Race or Ethnic Group	Persons Age 65 & Over Below Poverty Level			
	All Areas		Nonmetro Areas	
	Number (1000s)	Poverty Rate (Percent)	Number (1000s)	Poverty Rate (Percent)
Total	3711	14.1	1681	17.8
White	2860	12.0	1329	15.2
Black	796	36.3	333	49.5
Hispanic	645	23.1	114	26.7

* $4775/year for single elderly person.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census

Table 2

Hired Farmworkers, by Selected Age Groups, 1983

Age	All Farmworkers		Migrants	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
	(Numbers in 1000s)			
Total, All Ages	2,595	100	226	100
Ages 45-54	197	8	41	18
55-64	168	6	7	3
65 & Over	80	3	7	3

Source: Susan L. Pollack, The Hired Farm Working Force of 1983: A Statistical Profile, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, Ag. Econ. Rept. No. 554, June 1986, pp. 10, 14.

Table 3

Hired Farmworkers, by Race and Selected Age Groups, 1983

Age	Total	Whites	Hispanics	Blacks and Others
(In 1,000s)				
All Farmworkers	2,595	1,888	331	376
Ages				
45-54	197	102	41	54
55-64	168	108	24	36
65 & Over	80	60	3	17
Nonfarm Residence	2,183	1,542	294	347
Ages				
45-54	155	69	37	49
55-64	133	73	24	36
65 & Over	65	48	3	14
(In Percentages)				
All Farmworkers	100	100	100	100
Ages				
45-54	8	5	12	14
55-64	6	6	7	10
65 & Over	3	3	1	4
Nonfarm Residence	100	100	100	100
Ages				
45-54	6	4	11	13
55-64	5	4	7	10
65 & Over	3	3	1	4

Source: Susan L. Pollack, The Hired Farm Working Force of 1983: A Statistical Profile, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, Ag. Econ. Rept. No. 554, June 1986, pp. 14-15.

Table 4

Hired Farmworkers, by Race, Sex and Selected Age Groups, 1983

Residence and Age	Total		Whites		Hispanics		Blacks and Others	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
				(In 1,000s)				
All Farmworkers	2,017	578	1,510	378	239	91	268	108
Ages								
45-54	153	44	79	24	31	9	43	11
55-64	114	54	79	30	20	3	15	21
65 & Over	72	8	54	6	2	1	15	1
Nonfarm Residence	1,687	497	1,228	313	208	87	251	97
Ages								
45-54	117	38	51	18	28	9	39	11
55-64	85	48	50	24	20	3	15	21
65 & Over	59	6	43	5	2	1	14	0
				(In Percentages)				
All Farmworkers	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Ages								
45-54	8	8	5	6	13	10	16	10
55-64	6	9	5	8	9	4	6	20
65 & Over	4	1	4	1	1	1	6	1
Nonfarm Residence	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Ages								
45-54	6	7	3	5	12	10	14	10
55-64	4	8	3	6	9	4	6	20
65 & Over	3	1	3	1	1	1	5	0

Source: Susan L. Pollack, The Hired Farm Working Force of 1983, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, Ag. Econ. Rept. No. 554, June 1986, pp. 16-17.

Table 5

Hired Farmworkers, by Days Worked for Selected Age Groups, 1983

Age	Hired Farmworkers					
		Days Worked				
	Total	Less Than 25	25-74	75-149	150-249	250 or More
			(In 1,000s)			
Ages						
45-54	197	40	18	50	48	41
55-64	168	47	23	21	42	35
65 & Over	80	40	21	0	6	13
			(In Percentages)			
Ages						
45-54	100	20	9	25	24	21
55-64	100	27	14	13	25	21
65 & Over	100	50	26	-	8	16

Source: Susan L. Pollack, The Hired Farm Working Force of 1983, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, Ag. Econ. Rept. No. 554, June 1986, p. 24.

Table 6

Hired Farmworkers, by Days Worked and Sex for Selected Age Groups, 1983

Age	Hired Farmworkers					
		Days Worked				
	Total	Less Than 25	25-74	75-149	150-249	250 or More
			(In 1,000s)			
Male						
Ages						
45-54	153	27	9	36	43	37
55-64	114	29	15	14	24	32
65 & Over	72	35	21	0	4	12
Female						
Ages						
45-54	44	13	8	14	5	3
55-64	54	18	8	7	19	3
65 & Over	8	5	0	0	1	1
			(In Percentages)			
Male						
Ages						
45-54	100	18	6	24	28	24
55-64	100	25	13	12	21	28
65 & Over	100	48	29	0	6	17
Female						
Ages						
45-54	100	-	-	-	-	-
55-64	100	33	14	14	34	6
65 & Over	100	-	-	-	-	-

- = Base of fewer than 50,000 persons.

Source: Susan L. Pollock, The Hired Farm Working Force of 1983: A Statistical Profile, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, Ag. Econ. Rept. No. 554, June 1986, pp. 24-25.

Table 7

Hired Farmworkers, Who Did Less Than 25 Days of Farmwork, by Race and Selected Age Groups, 1983

Residence and Age in Years	Total	Whites	Hispanics	Blacks and Others
		(In Thousands)		
All Farmworkers	973	816	66	91
Ages				
45-54	40	33	4	4
55-64	46	35	3	8
65 & Over	40	26	1	13
Nonfarm Residence	862	712	64	86
Ages				
45-54	26	19	4	4
55-64	40	28	3	8
65 & Over	38	24	1	13
		(In Percentages)		
All Farmworkers	100	100	100	100
Ages				
45-54	4	4	6	4
55-64	5	4	5	9
65 & Over	4	3	2	14
Nonfarm Residence	100	100	100	100
Ages				
45-54	3	2	6	4
55-64	4	3	5	9
65 & Over	4	3	2	14

Source: Susan L. Pollock, The Hired Farm Working Force of 1983: A Statistical Profile, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, Ag. Econ. Rept. No. 554, June 1986, pp. 20-21.

Table 8
Hired Farmworkers, Who Did 25 to 149 Days of Farmwork, by Race and Selected Age Groups, 1983

Residence and Age in Years	Total	Whites	Hispanics	Blacks and Others
		(In Thousands)		
All Farmworkers	888	592	140	156
Ages				
45-54	68	24	16	28
55-64	44	31	9	4
65 & Over	21	18	2	1
Nonfarm Residence	764	488	133	144
Ages				
45-54	61	18	16	28
55-64	41	27	9	4
65 & Over	17	14	2	1
		(In Percentages)		
All Farmworkers	100	100	100	100
Ages				
45-54	8	4	11	18
55-64	5	5	6	3
65 & Over	2	3	2	0
Nonfarm Residence	100	100	100	100
Ages				
45-54	7	3	11	18
55-64	5	5	6	3
65 & Over	2	2	2	0

Source: Susan L. Pollock, The Hired Farm Working Force of 1983: A Statistical Profile, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, Ag. Econ. Rept. No. 554, June 1986, pp. 20-21.

Table 9

Hired Farmworkers, Who Did 150 or More Days of Farmwork, by Race and Selected Age Groups, 1983

Residence and Age in Years	Total	Whites	Hispanics	Blacks and Others
		(In Thousands)		
All Farmworkers	735	481	125	128
Ages				
45-54	89	46	21	22
55-64	78	43	12	24
65 & Over	19	15	0	4
Nonfarm Residence	557	342	97	117
Ages				
45-54	68	32	18	18
55-64	53	18	12	24
65 & Over	10	10	0	1
		(In Percentages)		
All Farmworkers	100	100	100	100
Ages				
45-54	12	9	17	17
55-64	11	9	9	18
65 & Over	3	3	0	3
Nonfarm Residence	100	100	100	100
Ages				
45-54	9	7	14	14
55-64	7	4	9	18
65 & Over	1	2	0	1

Source: Susan L. Pollock, The Hired Farm Working Force of 1983: A Statistical Profile, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, Ag. Econ. Rept. No. 554, June 1986, pp. 20-21.

Table 10

Annual Farm Earnings of Hired Farmworkers, by Selected Age Groups, 1983

	Workers (In 1,000s)	Annual Farm Earnings								
		Fewer Than $500	$500 to $999	$1000 to $2499	$2500 to $3999	$4000 to $5499	$5500 to $7499	$7500 to $9999	$10,000 and Over	Median Earnings
	Number	Percent								Dollars
All Workers	2,595	36	11	16	10	6	6	6	9	1,021
Age										
45-54	197	19	7	7	18	9	17	8	14	3,997
55-64	168	26	5	19	4	7	8	20	11	2,858
65 & Over	80	47	14	22	5	2	0	0	9	622

Source: Susan L. Pollack, The Hired Farm Working Force of 1983: A Statistical Profile, USDA, ERS, Ag. Econ. Rept. No. 554, June 1986, p. 36.

Table 11

Total Annual Earnings of Hired Farmworkers, by Selected Age Groups, 1983

		Annual Earnings								
	Workers (In 1,000s)	Fewer Than $500	$500 to $999	$1000 to $2499	$2500 to $3999	$4000 to $5499	$5500 to $7499	$7500 to $9999	$10,000 and Over	Median Earnings
	Number	----------	----------	----------	----------	Percent	----------	----------	----------	Dollars
All Workers	2,595	21	9	17	11	9	9	8	17	2,901
Age 45-54	197	12	6	9	11	17	17	9	20	5,291
55-64	168	17	2	19	8	10	8	22	14	4,470
65 & Over	80	43	15	23	8	2	0	0	9	962

Source: Susan L. Pollack, The Hired Farm Working Force of 1983: A Statistical Profile, USDA, ERS, Ag. Econ. Rept. No. 554, June 1986, p. 34.

Table 12
Educational Attainment of Total Population and Hispanics, by Age and Residence, 1979

Age and Location	Years of School Completed			
	Male		Female	
	Less Than 5 Years	4 Years High School or More	Less Than 5 Years	4 Years High School or More
	(Percent)			
25-44 Years				
Total Population	1.4	82.6	1.3	80.5
Metropolitan	1.3	84.3	1.2	82.2
Nonmetropolitan	1.5	78.8	1.3	76.7
Hispanic	12.3	49.8	10.7	50.6
Metropolitan	11.8	49.9	10.2	50.9
Nonmetropolitan	15.3	49.0	14.0	48.7
45 Years & Over				
Total Population	5.9	55.1	4.8	56.0
Metropolitan	4.7	59.6	4.2	58.8
Nonmetropolitan	8.2	46.6	6.1	50.4
Hispanic	26.6	30.4	28.2	27.6
Metropolitan	23.2	33.1	26.0	29.0
Nonmetropolitan	43.3	17.0	40.0	19.5

Source: Frank Fratoe, The Education of Nonmetro Hispanics, USDA, ERS, 1981.

Table 13

Income and Other Sources of Support for Older and Retired Farmworkers

How many older farmworkers in your area...	Percent of Responding Organizations						
	All	Almost All	Over Half	About Half	Less Than Half	Almost None	None
				(Percent)			
Have nonfarm earnings?	8	8	13	-	25	42	4
Receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI)?	4	22	4	30	9	30	-
Receive Social Security?	4	17	21	25	8	21	4
Receive food stamps?	16	28	24	8	20	4	-
Receive Medicaid?	9	22	39	9	13	9	-
Are Eligible for Medicare?	10	20	35	25	-	10	-
Live in subsidized housing?	-	4	4	9	22	48	13

Source: Housing Assistance Council, Older Farmworker Survey, 1986.

Table 14
Health Problems of Older and Retired Farmworkers

How many older farm-workers in your area have...	Percent of Responding Organizations						
	All	Almost All	Over Half	About Half	Less Than Half	Almost None	None
				(Percent)			
Respiratory or lung problems?	-	-	16	26	42	11	5
Circulatory or heart problems?	-	17	17	17	44	5	-
Problems due to pesticide exposure?	-	6	18	23	35	12	6
Digestive problems?	-	6	6	41	35	6	6
Problems due to work-related accidents?	-	-	12	6	47	29	6
Bone, joint or muscular problems?	-	24	29	12	35	-	-
Mental or emotional problems?	-	-	17	17	22	33	11

Source: Housing Assistance Council, Older Farmworker Survey, 1986.

Table 15
Persons Employed in Farmwork, Age 55 and Over, U.S., 1980

Persons Employed in Farmwork	55 to 64 Years of Age	65 Years and Over
Whites	83,400	81,500
Blacks	18,800	14,420
Hispanics	18,320	6,940
Others	5,400	4,420
Total	109,140	130,920

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, unpublished data.

Table 16
Persons Employed in Farmwork, Age 55 and Over, California, 1980

Persons Employed in Farmwork	55 to 64 Years of Age	65 Years and Over
Whites	9,760	6,380
Blacks	840	560
Hispanics	9,600	3,120
Others	3,500	3,060
Total	23,700	13,120

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, unpublished data.

Table 17

Persons Employed in Farmwork, Age 55 and Over, Florida, 1980

Persons Employed in Farmwork	55 to 64 Years of Age	65 Years and Over
Whites	4,920	3,300
Blacks	4,060	2,300
Hispanics	1,040	360
Others	80	60
Total	10,100	6,020

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, unpublished data.

Table 18

Persons Employed in Farmwork, Age 55 and Over, Texas, 1980

Persons Employed in Farmwork	55 to 64 Years of Age	65 Years and Over
Whites	4,240	4,740
Blacks	1,160	2,800
Hispanics	5,040	2,480
Others	120	-
Total	10,560	10,020

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, unpublished data.

Table 19

Characteristics of Housing Units Occupied by Farmworkers, Age 55 and Over, U.S., 1980

Race	Total	With Complete Plumbing	Without Complete Plumbing	Percent Without Plumbing
		Age 55 to 64		
All Farmworkers	128,380	112,160	16,220	12.6
White	81,980	74,680	7,300	8.9
Black	20,500	14,600	5,900	28.8
Hispanic	20,320	17,660	2,660	13.1
Others	5,580	5,220	360	6.5
		Age 65 & Over		
All Farmworkers	107,560	91,260	16,300	15.2
White	80,440	71,040	9,400	11.7
Black	14,840	9,820	5,020	33.8
Hispanic	7,420	6,060	1,360	18.3
Others	4,860	4,340	520	10.7

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, unpublished data.

Table 20

Characteristics of Housing Units Occupied by Farmworkers, Age 55 and Over, California, 1980

Race	Total	With Complete Plumbing	Without Complete Plumbing	Percent Without Plumbing
		Age 55 to 64		
All Farmworkers	23,900	22,600	1,300	5.8
White	9,860	9,640	220	2.3
Black	740	720	20	2.7
Hispanic	10,140	9,120	1,020	10.1
Others	3,160	3,120	40	1.3
		Age 65 & Over		
All Farmworkers	13,000	12,780	700	5.4
White	6,320	6,220	100	1.6
Black	540	480	60	11.1
Hispanic	3,140	2,820	320	10.2
Others	3,000	2,780	220	7.3

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, unpublished data.

Table 21

Characteristics of Housing Units Occupied by Farmworkers, Age 55 and Over, Florida, 1980

Race	Total	With Complete Plumbing	Without Complete Plumbing	Percent Without Plumbing
		Age 55 to 64		
All Farmworkers	9,800	8,700	1,100	11.2
White	4,720	4,440	280	5.9
Black	3,980	3,360	620	15.6
Hispanic	1,040	840	200	19.2
Others	60	60	-	-
		Age 65 & Over		
All Farmworkers	5,960	8,700	1,100	11.2
White	3,240	3,160	80	2.5
Black	2,300	1,980	320	[illegible]
Hispanic	360	360		
Others	60	40	20	[illegible]

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, unpublished data.

Table 22

Characteristics of Housing Units Occupied by Farmworkers, Age 55 and Over, Texas, 1980

Race	Total	With Complete Plumbing	Without Complete Plumbing	Percent Without Plumbing
		Age 55 to 64		
All Farmworkers	10,720	9,360	1,360	12.7
White	4,160	4,060	120	2.9
Black	1,440	1,180	260	18.1
Hispanic	5,020	4,040	980	19.5
Others	120	120	-	-
		Age 65 & Over		
All Farmworkers	8,960	8,180	780	8.7
White	4,700	4,520	180	3.8
Black	1,800	1,520	280	15.6
Hispanic	2,460	2,140	320	13.0
Others	-	-	-	-

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, unpublished data.

Table 23
Educational Attainment of Farmworkers, Age 55 and Over, U.S., 1980

Race	Years of School Completed			
	Age 55 to 64, Percent With		Age 65 & Over, Percent With	
	Less Than 8	12 or More	Less Than 8	12 or More
			(Percent)	
All Farmworkers	35	30	[illegible]	
White	19	[illegible]		
Black	62	11	76	[illegible]
Hispanic	77	8	[illegible]	7
Others	21	50	48	[illegible]

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, unpublished data.

Table 24

Persons by Origin and Language, South Rio Grande Valley of Texas, 1980

Characteristic	County				
	Cameron	Hidalgo	Starr	Willacy	Total
All Persons	209,727	283,229	27,266	17,495	537,717
Native Born	169,672	226,906	21,343	15,304	432,825
Foreign Born	40,055	56,323	5,923	2,191	104,492
Percent of Total	19.1	19.9	21.7	12.5	19.4
Naturalized	15,107	20,298	1,899	775	38,079
Not a Citizen	24,948	36,025	4,024	1,416	66,413
Mexican Born	35,032	51,107	5,381	2,000	93,520
Percent Foreign Born	87.5	90.7	90.8	91.3	89.[illegible]
Immigrated 1975-80	9,403	13,120	422	1,891	24,836
Persons Age 55 & Over	188,072	253,336	26,461	15,691	483,560
Speaks Language Other Than English At Home	144,096	203,595	23,383	12,509	383,583
Percent Age 55 & Over	76.6	80.4	88.4	79.7	79.3
Speaks English Not Well or Not at All*	41,052	60,606	8,431	3,031	113,120
Percent Age 55 or Over	21.8	23.9	31.9	19.3	23.4

* Proportion increases with age of resident.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census

Table 25

Persons by Poverty, Age, and Spanish Origin, South Rio Grande Valley of Texas, 1980

Characteristic	County				
	Cameron	Hidalgo	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
All Persons*	207,468	281,298	27,052	17,[illegible]	[illegible]
Age 60 & Over	26,413	34,659	3,065	2,2[illegible]	66,[illegible]
Age 65 & Over	19,272	25,075	2,254	1,70[illegible]	[illegible]
Spanish Origin	160,424	229,263	26,252	14,[illegible]	[illegible]
Age 60 & Over	13,123	18,070	2,908	1,33[illegible]	35,[illegible]
Age 65 & Over	9,538	12,874	2,138	999	25,[illegible]
Poor Persons	66,046	99,081	13,698	6,065	184,890
Poverty Rate (%)	31.8	35.2	50.6	34.6	34.7
Age 60 & Over	6,593	9,548	1,472	770	[illegible]
Poverty Rate (%)	25.0	27.5	48.0	33.7	[illegible]
Age 65 & Over	5,046	7,240	1,166	623	14,[illegible]
Poverty Rate (%)	26.2	28.9	51.7	36.5	[illegible]
Poor Persons of Spanish Origin	61,065	93,660	13,550	5,658	173,933
Poverty Rate (%)	38.1	40.9	51.6	52.8	40.5
Age 60 & Over	5,252	7,879	1,448	651	15,230
Poverty Rate (%)	40.0	43.6	49.8	48.7	43.0
Age 65 & Over	4,093	5,901	1,149	532	11,675
Poverty Rate (%)	42.9	45.8	53.7	53.3	45.7

*Sample does not include institutionalized persons (including many of the elderly).

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bure[illegible]

Table 26

Unrelated Individuals* by Poverty, Age, and Spanish Origin, South Rio Grande Valley of Texas, 1980

Characteristic	County				Total
	Cameron	Hidalgo	Starr	Willacy	
Unrelated Individuals	11,942	14,571	995	853	28,361
Poor Persons	4,932	5,940	694	492	12,058
Poverty Rate (%)	41.3	43.8	69.7	57.7	41.1
Age 65 & Over	4,788	5,511	497	480	11,276
Poor Persons	2,162	2,802	358	313	5,635
Poverty Rate (%)	45.2	50.8	72.0	65.2	50.0
Unrelated Individuals of Spanish Origin	5,970	7,139	950	473	14,532
Poor Persons	3,516	4,415	680	376	8,987
Poverty Rate (%)	58.9	61.8	71.6	79.5	61.8
Age 65 & Over	2,155	2,571	463	276	5,465
Poor Persons	1,606	2,058	351	252	4,267
Poverty Rate (%)	74.5	80.0	75.8	91.3	78.1

*Sample does not include institutionalized persons (including many of the elderly).

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census

Table 2[illegible]

Housing Conditions for Elderly Householders of Spanish Origin, South Rio Grande Valley of Texas*, 1980

Characteristic	**County**				
	Cameron	**Hidalgo**	**Starr**	**Willacy**	Total
Occupied Housing Units	6,244	8,408	1,398	656	16,706
Owner Occupied	4,545	6,409	1,219	554	12,[illegible] (76[illegible])
Lacking Complete Plumbing	884	1,304	150	93	2,4[illegible] ([illegible])
No Complete Kitchen Facilities	648	959	203	39	1,8[illegible] (11%)
No Vehicle Available	2,751	3,168	559	265	6,743 (40%)
No Telephone	1,177	1,749	521	200	3,647 (22%)
Lacking Central Heating	4,776	6,434	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] ([illegible])
Lacking Air Conditioning	4,479	6,033	893	544	11,949 (72%)

*This sample includes only households with householder or spouse over 65. Most of the elderly of Spanish origin in the region live in households headed by the nonelderly and are thus subject to the housing conditions prevailing for the general population of Spanish origin.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

Appendix B
Housing Assistance Council Loan Request Summary

Meeting Date : May 22, 1986
Review Number :
Ranking :

APPLICANT:
LOCATION :
PROJECT : 16 units FmHA 514/516 Farm Labor Project
HAC LOANS: NONE

REQUEST	: Amount: $61,750	RECOMMEND:	Amount: $61,750
Purposes	: site acquisition	Purposes :	site acquisition
Security	: first mortgage	Security :	first mortgage

Applicant's Background:

Applicant is a state chapter of La Raza Unida, and has experience in operating employment training programs.

Project Description:

16 unit family FmHA 514/516 farm labor housing project to be built on a site to be purchased from the Town of Jefferson. For reasons of political and public opposition, the site must be purchased when the option expires 05/31/86.

Project Status:

Discussion with the FmHA District Office indicates that the project is awaiting expiration of a two week comment period following publication of a Class II Environmental ad. Regardless of comment, the project application will be sent to the FmHA state office for approval. The land costs are acceptable, the application is in order and the District Office presently expects the project to go to completion.

Special Concerns:

The project has well organized local opposition directed against housing for Mexican-American farm workers.

No other concerns are apparent at this time except a quick turn around on land purchase.

Multiple Family Housing Summary of Project Costs

___ Estimate		APPLICANT NAME	
___ Actual		DATE	
		Bldg. 1,2:	81-6 1/2 x 48-1 Bldg. 5:
Outside dimensions of buildings		Bldg. 3:	90-1 x 48-1
Number of Buildings	4	Bldg. 4:	91-8 1/2 x 48-1
Number of Living Units	16	Bldg. 5:	20-0 x 14-0

Number 3 BR Handicap	1	Sq. Ft.	1,325
Number 2 Bedrooms	12	Sq. Ft.	12,660
Number 3 Bedrooms	3	Sq. Ft.	3,645

	CONTRACT	BORROWER METHOD		TOTAL
UNIT COSTS		Material	Labor	
Gen. Const.				402,800
Electrical				53,000
Heating				10,600
Plumbing				63,600
Landscaping				
Excavating				
Total Contracts				530,000
EQUIPMENT				
Range				
Refrigerator				
Washer/Dryer				
Total Equip.				
*Builders Fee				20,000
Total Construction				

Legal	2,000
Architect and Engineering	21,000
***Land-Optioned (x) Owned ( )	61,750
Street Improvement	
Sewer and Water to site	
Interest	
Contingency %3	18,250

OTHER COSTS: Survey 1,000 Other DILHR 2,000
I.O.C. 16,000 Printing 2,000
TOTAL OTHER COSTS Soil Borings 1,000 34,000
Total Project Cost 2% Operations 12,000
Amount of Loan 687,000

Multiple Family Housing Summary of Project Costs cont.

FOR FmHA OFFICE USE

** Cost of Building	____________	Cost per unit	____________
Borrowers Initial Investment		Borrower Contribution to Project	
Land	____________	Land	____________
Cash to Project	____________	Cash	____________
Cash to O & M Acct.	____________	Total Contribution	____________
Total Investment	____________	Loan Amount	____________

* Allowed only when contract method of construction is waived by FmHA. (owner/builder) method of construction - Builder's fee determined by FmHa.

**Project cost less value of land, landscaping, street improvement, sewer and water.

***Insert FmHA appraised value, if final estimate; option price if estimate cost.

McAuley Institute 1320 Fenwick Lane, Suite 600 • Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

April 20, 1990

Select Committee on Aging
US House of Representatives
Room 712, House Annex I
300 New Jersey, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Older Farmworker Hearing Testimony

Dear Honorable Chairman Roybal and Committee Members:

On behalf of the McAuley Institute, I would like to express my appreciation to the Select Committee on Aging for holding a Congressional Hearing and giving the attention due to older farmworkers.

McAuley Institute provides technical, financial and human resources for nonprofit community-based organizations to increase the supply of the affordable housing for low-income populations. Created in 1982 by the Sisters of Mercy of the Union, McAuley has provided assistance to over 600 organizations nationally in various aspects of housing and organizational development. Through its Revolving Loan Fund, the Institute has provided financing to 50 groups to improve housing. The result is a wide range of increased housing options. In Southern Louisiana, for example, retired farmworker women are learning about construction in order to repair their modest homes. A substandard apartment complex in a gentrified area of Washington, D.C. is being rehabilitated and converted to a tenant cooperative comprised of 24 low-income households.

McAuley Institute has been active in the National Task Force for Older Farmworkers since the beginning of 1989 and is a leader in the development of a future publication that profiles housing facilities serving older farmworkers. I have been a member of the Task Force since its beginning in early 1988 and chair the Housing Development Committee. The testimony included here comes from knowledge gained and interviews conducted for the Task Force publication, from McAuley's history of working in partnership with organizations serving farmworkers in Florida, Texas and Louisiana and from my prior experience of developing housing with a farmworker organization in Texas.

Although the efforts of McAuley and the Older Farmworker Task Force have centered around housing, it is helpful to first view the broader context in which older or retired farmworkers live and work.

The serious problems encountered by older farmworkers directly result from unjust and often brutal agricultural labor practices. As a result of inadequate protections and wages during working years, older farmworkers continue to battle the results of unhealthy field and housing environments, hazardous physical working conditions, poisonous contaminations, insufficient health care, below-poverty wages and inadequate incomes.

A 1988 study of labor laws conducted by Motivation Education and Training concluded that agricultural workers have not reached legal parity with non-agricultural counterparts.[1] The majority of employment standards treat farmworkers differently than workers in any other segment of the labor force. Nearly one in three such standards do not apply to farm employment at all.[2] Descriptions from the study of employment standards, which most wage earners today expect and enjoy but that exclude or treat farmworkers differently, follow.

Wage and Hour: In most cases, farmworkers do not receive just wages for their labor. Specifically:

- Minimum wage laws in many states categorically exempt certain agricultural employers or include exceptions for agricultural labor.
- Minimum wage in over half of the states laws do not even apply to the farm industry.
- In the 19 states where wage floors have been established for agricultural work forces, they range from $1.50 to $4.25 an hour (through July 1, 1988).

Health and Safety: There are no job safety standards applicable to agricultural workers in 15 states while in 7 states farm employers are exempted from many job safety standards. Occupational Safety and Health Act protections do not apply where fewer than 11 workers are employed at any one time. Laws in 22 states exempt small farm operations. The Act invalidates those safety issues already regulated by Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in the 29 states which have occupational safety and health standards that have not been federally approved (including agricultural states of New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Texas), even when state rules are more comprehensive and beneficial to the work force. The leniency of field sanitation rules and enforcement means farmworkers labor in fields without easy access to basic necessities such as drinking water and toilets.

Insurance and Compensation: Ninety percent of states still compel only the very largest farm operations to pay unemployment insurance contributions for agricultural employees. Workers' compensation laws apply to farm labor in 17 states, though they are more restrictive than those applicable to non-farm labor. Thus, farmworkers in two-thirds of the nation remain uninsured against the adverse physical and financial effects of work-related injury, long-term or acute illness and death, even within the hazardous work environment. In many instances, therefore, farmworkers are not covered by the most basic health and safety standards.

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[1] Craddock, Brian R., **Federal and State Employment Standards and U.S. Farm Labor** (Motivation Education & Training, Austin, Texas: May, 1988).

[2] Craddock, Brian R., **The Fabric of Agricultural Labor Protections -- Still Threadbare After All These Years** (Motivation Education & Training, Austin, Texas: 1988).

Pesticide and Agricultural Chemicals: OSHA has extended hazard communication regulations into the agricultural workplace and states have been promoting similar state legislation. However, over one-fourth of the nation's "right to know" laws (which require pesticide applicators to catalogue and make available information regarding pesticide products used) exempt farm employers from requirements to inform employees of toxic materials to which they may be exposed on the job.

Housing: OSHA provides health and safety regulations for temporary housing or "labor camps," which are applicable to all growers who furnish housing as part of an employee's wages. Fewer than half the states have specific regulations for employer-provided farmworker housing. Of the 19 states which have farmworker housing regulations, 12 have regulations more stringent than OSHA's, but, as with health and safety standards, the states' regulations are superseded by the less stringent federal rules.

Child Labor Laws: In 27 states, farm employment is permitted at a younger age, for longer hours and under less favorable conditons than is legal in other types of employment. Children are allowed to work in the fields totally unprotected in 16 other states. The federal Fair Labor Standards Act allows children as young as 16 to be engaged in farmwork and contains no lower age limit on small farms.

Civil Rights: Although employment provisions of the Civil Rights Act, the Equal Pay Act and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act make no distinctions between farmworkers and non-farmworkers, they apply only to large employers, thus excluding a large proportion of the agricultural work force.

Labor Relations and Collective Bargaining: Twelve of 17 states with labor relations laws summarily exclude agricultural employment. Farmworkers' right to bargain is protected in only nine states whose laws offer wide variations in the ranges of protection.[3]

An overview of these laws demonstrates that farmworkers remain largely unprotected from hazardous, dangerous, low paying and abusive conditions although most employees in the U.S. workforce were guaranteed protections decades ago. If workers live to old age, they can expect to dwell in poverty and ill-health. Without changes, today's younger farmworkers have no brighter future in store for them.

It is within this context that older farmworkers attempt to secure decent housing with meager resources. With few exceptions, developments that house older farmworkers appear to do so incidentally, rather than by design. Very limited amounts of public funds and even fewer private resources are devoted to housing older or retired farmworkers.

A relatively large proportion of the total migrant farmworker population is over the age of 45, particularly among minority farmworkers.[4] Of 2.5 million migrant and seasonal farmworkers counted by the 1987 Agricultural Work Force Survey, approximately 431,000 were age 45 or older.[5] (These numbers are an undercount of the farm labor population.[6] Unfortunately, no accurate data is available for the numbers of farmworkers). Not included in the survey of agricultural workers are older farmworkers who are no longer able to work in agriculture. The number of retired and disabled farwmorkers is not known.

Because annual earnings from farmwork averaged only $5,352 in 1987,[7] few resources are available for housing during active or retirement years. Minority farmworkers, including Blacks, Hispanics, Filipinos, and Haitians, suffer most from poor housing conditions. Almost a third of Black farmworkers over 55 live in units with incomplete plumbing.[8] In Texas and Florida, and to a lesser extent California, many Black and Hispanic older farmworkers live in permanent housing that lacks adequate plumbing. The temporary housing which older farmworkers might occupy while in the migrant stream is even more likely to lack plumbing and be overcrowded.[9]

Women are also an important segment among older farmworkers and are at greater risk of suffering from adverse health and safety conditions. Both while working and after retirement, women suffer more acutely from lack of toilets in or near the fields, exposure to toxic pesticides (especially during pregnancy) and osteoporosis difficulties from carrying heavy loads and performing strenuous labor. The lack of affordable child care frequently means women perform two jobs while in the fields -- laboring with the crops and caring for the children who often accompany them to the fields. As is the case for other rural women, access to credit and to federal resourses is diminishing, opportunities for improving their economic circumstances are few and they experience the most persistent poverty and worst housing conditions.[10]

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[4] Housing Assistance Council, **After the Harvest: The Plight of Older Farmworkers** (American Association of Retired Persons, Washington, D.C.: 1988).

[5] Oliveira, Victor J. and E. Jane Cox, **The Agricultural Work Force of 1987: A Statistical Profile** (USDA, Washington, D.C.: May, 1989).

[6] ibid.

[7] ibid.

[8] Housing Assistance Council and California Human Development Corporation analysis of U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, unpublished data.

[9] ibid.

[10] Women and Housing Task Force of the National Low Income Housing Coalition, **Unlocking the Door: An Action Program for Meeting the Housing Needs of Women** (Washington, D.C.: 1990).

To ascertain the extent to which housing resources are available to older farmworkers, the Older Farmworker Task Force examined the range of housing facilities that include older farmworkers. The Task Force mailed housing surveys to 197 rural agencies in the summer of 1988. Twenty of these responded to the survey and an additional 10 housing providers serving older farmworkers were contacted later. Information contained in the following pages was collected from the 30 organizations who responded to the initial survey or subsequent telephone interviews. Descriptions of housing projects developed by 20 of the 30 organizations will be profiled in an upcoming publication of the Task Force.

The following findings were drawn from the Task Force survey:

- Only 3 housing facilities were developed with the older farmworker in mind. The other 27 groups interviewed serve older farmworkers because they are part of another group (i.e. members of households eligible to live in publicly-funded farm labor or elderly housing).

- Only one housing facility serves older farmworkers exclusively.

- Less than an estimated 400 older or retired farmworkers live in the 1,121 units provided by the 30 surveyed organizations.

- The Task Force's survey did not claim to find every facility that serves older farmworkers and it is encouraging to learn that some 400 older farmworkers are living in the facilities operated by surveyed groups. This is only a fraction, however, of the possibly hundreds of thousands of older farmworkers who are potentially eligible to live in these types of facilities.

- Public funds most likely to serve older farmworkers, in the order of frequency used by survey respondents, are:

  (1) Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) Sections 514 and 516 farm labor multi-family housing program. Seventeen of the 30 groups surveyed utilized FmHA Section 514/516 funds to develop multi-family housing units.

  (2) HUD Section 202 elderly housing facilities. HUD financed the housing produced by four of the 30 survey respondents.

  (3) Other funding sources. Six of the surveyed groups relied upon state, county or other funding for at least partial financing of developing housing facilities.

  (4) Other Farmers Home Administration programs. Two of the surveyed organizations utilized FmHA Sections 502 and 504 repair programs for low and moderate income homeowners.

- Access to rental assistance subsidies for tenants were as important as production subsidies to make housing available to low-income farmworkers and retired farmworkers. Only two of the 30 surveyed projects are able to operate without rental assistance.

- Availability of substantial technical assistance and predevelopment resources were critical to the development of the housing facilities. Half of the organizations surveyed relied on technical assistance resources and testified to their importance in the development process.

- Sponsor organizations typically encountered tremendous obstacles to development of housing facilities. They exhibit a great deal of dedication and tenacity, both before and during the development and after the start of operation.

- On average, more than three years was needed to develop the housing facilities that serve older farmworkers. Ten of the sponsor groups stated that the time lapse between initial conception and occupancy of the housing was 2-3 years, eight reported that the time lapse was 4-5 years, two noted a timeframe less than two-years and another two reported more than 6 years were needed between conception and occupancy.

- Eight of the 30 organizations surveyed were still in the planning and predevelopment stages at the time surveys were conducted. Six of the eight are now under construction or occupied, two are still trying to finalize financing. Planning for two of the projects has been halted since the survey was conducted because of FmHA's disapproval.

- Local opposition to the development of housing facilities was common, although once developed, most facilities were accepted into their local communities.

- Older farmworkers living in FmHA Section 514/516 housing are either working farmworkers, members of qualifying farmworker households or were active farmworkers residing in farm labor housing when they retired from farmwork.

- Although the Housing and Community Development Act of 1987 permits retired farmworkers to qualify for residency in Section 514/516 housing, none of the farmworker housing providers interviewed had older farmworkers who qualified to live in the units under this law. Due to the inadequate number of units available, older farmworkers are given a lower priority for residing in the units than are employed farmworker families.

- Availability of local resources, including local government financing and grants from foundations and contributors, were often crucial to the successful development of housing opportunities.

- Older farmworkers need health, nutritional, educational, transportation and other support services, together with housing. Only five of the surveyed organizations provide support services, but other organizations cite the need and desire to provide support services if adequate funding were available.

Information gathered provides evidence that older farmworkers are a neglected and totally disenfranchized group, despite lifetimes of labor. Older farmworkers are not easily or readily served through existing publicly-financed housing programs. As a result of these findings, the Older Farmworker Task Force has drafted recommendations that have been presented separately to the Select Committee on Aging. McAuley supports these recommendations. We also recommend:

1. Revision and vigorous enforcement of federal and state laws to halt unjust agricultural labor practices: Older farmworkers are at undue risk as long as the agricultural industry fails to provide adequate protections and compensation for hazardous labor.

2. Expanded support for rural nonprofit capacity-building and housing development: There would be no older farmworkers living in subsidized housing were it not for the determination and perserverance of a handful of dedicated nonprofit organizations. The work of nonprofit housing developers, from predevelopment through operation and housing management, must be fully supported financially if housing for older farmworkers is to be improved.

3. Increased funding for the Farmers Home Administration Sections 514 and 516 farm labor housing programs: Current appropriations do not adequately serve the working farm labor population. Increased funding is needed to better serve the older and active farmworker population.

4. Inclusion of older farmworkers in HUD and FmHA market studies and affirmative marketing plans: HUD and FmHA should require that older farmworkers be included in the market studies and affirmative marketing plans that are conducted with the development and marketing of all FmHA and HUD housing facilities located in rural or agricultural areas.

5. Inclusion of farmworkers in definitions of "homeless": Farmworkers should routinely fall into established definitions of homeless when they are in the migrant stream in order to qualify for shelter support.

6. Centralized processing of farm labor housing in the National Office of the Farmers Home Administration: FmHA offices administer the Section 514/516 programs very differently from state to state. More sensitivity and attention would be available to older farmworkers if the program were administered totally from the National Office rather than through District and State Offices.

6. Improved and uniform observation of time limits established in federal regulations for processing FmHA and HUD housing applications: Currently some offices are unable or unwilling to meet the imposed time limitations.

7. Census of farmworkers: None of the current surveys adequately enumerate farmworkers. Both the decennial census and the USDA surveys admittedly under represent farmworkers. A census must be conducted that is designed and conducted in a manner and during a time period where the largest numbers of farmworkers can be counted.

I appreciate the invitation and the opportunity to present testimony on this important subject. I would be happy to provide additional information or go more into detail on our specific recommendations.

Sincerely,

Kathy Tyler
Kathy Tyler
Housing Development Specialist, McAuley Institute
Member, Older Farmworker Task Force

JoAnn Kane
JoAnn Kane
President, McAuley Institute

WASHINGTON
COUNTY,
OREGON

May 30, 1990

Congressman Edward R. Roybal, Chairman
House Select Committee on Aging
300 New Jersey Ave., S.E.
Room 712, Annex 1
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Roybal,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you and the Select Committee on Aging our testimony on the condition of the older farmworker here in Washington County, Oregon.

Enclosed you will find a chart which compares some of the results of our survey with the conditions of older "Hispanics" throughout the U.S., as reported in the Commonwealth Study of 1989 and the La Raza Study of 1988. As you can see, the issues and barriers faced by rural area older farmworkers in our county are enormous, even as they are viewed in contrast with the deplorable statistics for the Hispanic elder population as a whole.

With no other resources than a VISTA volunteer position, we have designed a 25-page survey instrument and have interviewed over 100 older farmworker households. This process has documented the extent of need in this community, along with some cultural data which will enable us to design an effective model for services and information delivery.

This survey process has been, by no means, scientific or - in a strict sense - statistically valid and flawless. We urge the Committee to continue to press for better data collection and for research money for scientifically valid surveys to be conducted on this population since Census and other data is so inaccurate.

We have, however, successfully enlisted three other agencies on aging in Oregon to conduct this survey in their areas, which are known to have high concentrations of farmworker populations. They also have no resources other than their one-year VISTA positions. Dr. Joe Gallegos from the University of Portland has been gracious enough to lend us his student and computer resources to enter this cumulative data into one system for analysis.

However, this entire process has taken nearly three years to complete and we have struggled to date with no outside resources.

Area Agency on Aging
Hillsboro, Oregon 97123
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Phone: (503) 640-3489

We have had no money for our four projects to meet and discuss the instrument, compare interview techniques nor to analyze the survey results or their implications. We've had no funds to publish the full results of our survey, despite scores of requests from all over the country for our survey instrument, the survey results and our own local service delivery strategies.

We applied to HHS under the Discretionary Grants program in 1988 and to the Minority Initiative Program of AARP in 1989 to help with the accuracy of the survey. Neither proposal was funded. We have been in contact with AARP's Older Farmworker Task Force for the past two years. They are highly supportive of our work but there is no money associated with the work of this Task Force. We attempted to coordinate with the Asociación Pro Personas Mayores in 1988 as well, but found the costs of such coordination to be too high. We have contacted the National Hispanic Council on Aging, La Raza and others and we find that no entity is looking at the composite needs of older farmworkers nor has there been any funding of research or demonstration programs for this, primarily Hispanic, population.

In Oregon, the various migrant health centers have reported to us that since their inception (some dating back to the 1960's), **less than 1%** of their clients have been Hispanic elders. The funding for these clinics has historically focused on prenatal and delivery services, VD and pesticide poisoning. The directors of these clinics show a genuine concern for the lack of service to elders but the situation remains the same...no demonstration funds for medically underserved elders. The National Migrant Resource Program in Texas also reports that in the national network of clinic providers to the farmworker population, virtually nothing is known about the older farmworker, nor are there any demonstrations finding ways to reach these elders. Our survey indicates that in our county 41.5% of these elders do not receive care when ill and that nearly 25% **never see a doctor**. Added to this information, when asked about emergency room use in the past year, 40.7 reported using hospital emergency rooms once, while an additional 16.6% went 2-5 times.

It seems tragic that while we have a fairly extensive system of migrant health clinics in the U.S., for various reasons the older farmworker lacks access and benefit to this resource and the clinic providers are virtual strangers to the older members of the very families they treat daily.

We need your help to begin securing resources for our project locally, regionally and to serve as a resource nationally. I have sent Mary Hanlon from your staff a copy of the first three grant proposals we've submitted to begin targeted attention to this population. Our final proposal will be directed to the Meyer Memorial Trust (formerly the Fred Meyer Charitable Trust) in July and I would ask that you review that proposal in June for possible support, as well.

We need to provide these funding sources with as much evidence of support from authoritative sources as possible in order to effectively advocate on behalf of the older farmworker. Unfortunately it seems as though there are few entities that are even aware of the magnitude of need within this population or that have given thought to the best approaches for a demonstration project. Having conducted a special hearing on this issue in late April, it would be most helpful to us if you could draft a letter outlining what you learned of this population and the need for innovative approaches to initiate information and services.

As a result of our process, we feel fortunate in having some very enlightening data that has helped us design some culturally sensitive strategies, shaped in part with counsel from a small group of older farmworkers which meets with our agency manager monthly.

Your Committee can be of great help and support to our effort if you could take the time to review our three proposals, along with the fourth in June, and determine whether you can stand in support of our effort before these funding bodies.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Gloria Muzquiz

Gloria Múzquiz
Resource Developer

Encl.

Table 1

The following is an excerpt from a report, issued in December 1988, by the Chairman of the House Select Committee on Aging entitled, "Demographic Characteristics of the Older Hispanic Population".

POPULATION PROJECTIONS

The Census Bureau projects that the rate of growth among older Hispanics will be 4.5 times as great as the entire aged population from 1987 to the year 2000: 76.9 percent vs. 17.0 percent. The growth percentage for elderly Hispanics is expected to be nearly five times as great as the rate of increase for the entire White aged population during same period: 76.9 percent vs. 15.9 percent.

Projected Increase in Population 65 Years of Age or Older (Figures in Thousands)

	1987	2000	2015	2040
Hispanics	972	1,719	3,082	6,744
% Increase from 1987		76.9	217.1	593.8
Whites	26,865	31,127	38,990	55,436
% Increase from 1987		15.9	45.1	106.4
Blacks	2,448	2,975	4,205	8,369
% Increase from 1987		21.5	71.8	241.9
All Races	29,835	34,921	44,797	66,988
% Increase from 1987		17.0	50.1	124.1

Sources: "United States Population Estimated by Age, Sex, and Race: 1980 to 1987", Series P-25, No. 1022, U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, March 1988.
"Projections of the Hispanic Population: 1983 to 2080", Series P-25, U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, November 1986.

TABLE 2 - INDICATORS OF NEED

The following chart indicates various need factors for aging subgroups, as these are reported in various published documents. These indicators of need are then compared with the results of a 1989 needs assessment conducted in Washington County, Oregon, exclusively of Hispanic elders - the vast majority of whom are elder farmworkers (81%).

The results show how much greater the risk and need factors are for this rural, aging farmworker population, as these compare with the same factors for Hispanics as a whole or for the total U.S. population over age 65.

Data for all Hispanics - U.S.	Data for total aged U.S. population	Commonwealth (1) Fund Study 1989	La Raza (2) Study, 1987	Washington County (3) Survey, 1989
34.6% had 5th grade education or less			X	82.0%
75% have 8th grade education or less	35.0%	X		93.0%
40% do not speak English		X		66.0%
66% worked in farmwork or unskilled labor		X		81.0%
19% have pensions	45.0%	X		2.8%
29% participate in SSI (67% are eligible)	17.0% (34% are eligible)	X		10.4%
68% live in houses		X		37.7%
51% own their homes	75.0%	X		25.5%
54% report fair or poor health	35.0%	X		53.0%
83 % receive Medicare	96.0%	X		40.0%
8% have no health insurance	1.0%	X		51.0%
20% felt a need for services		X		67.0%
58% of Mexican Americans were born in U.S.				21.7%
Growth rate 1970-1989 = 61%	40.0%			87.0%

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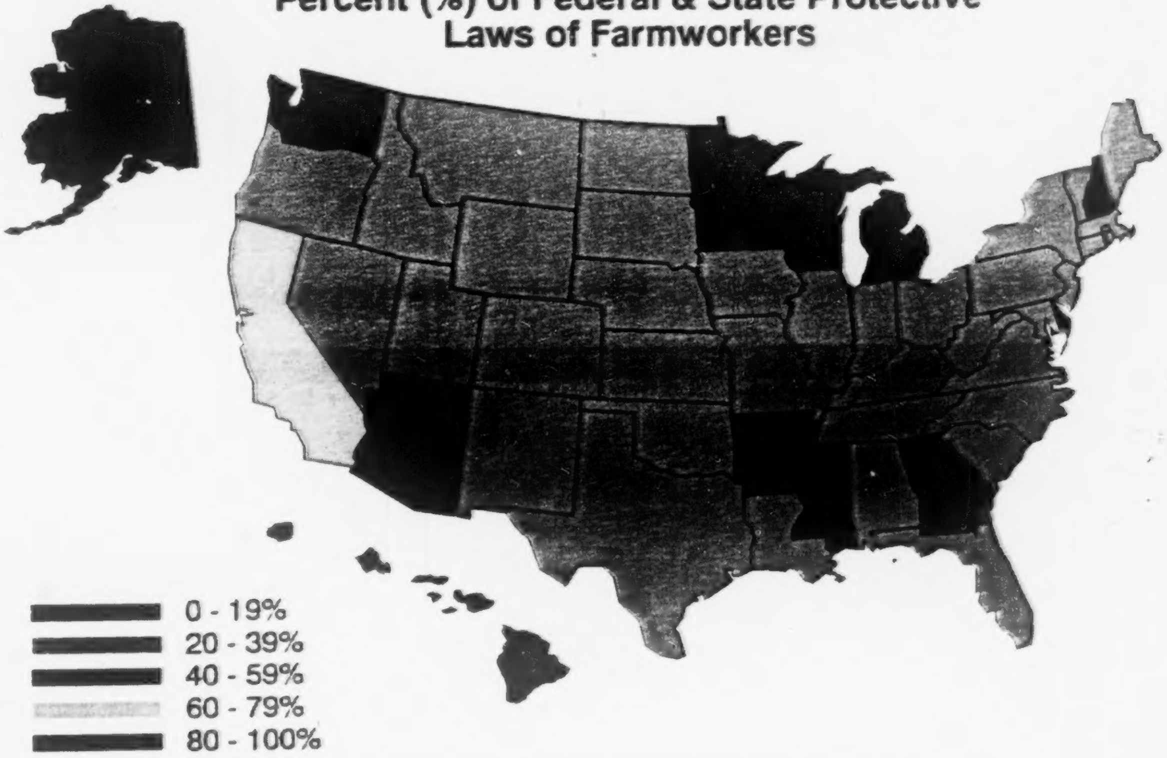
(1) Poverty and Poor Health Among Elderly Hispanic Americans, The Commonwealth Fund Commission on Elderly People Living Alone September, 1989

(2) The Hispanic Elderly: A Demographic Profile, National Council of La Raza, October 1987

(3) A Survey of Hispanic Elders, Washington County Agency on Aging and the University of Portland, October, 1989


0 - 19%
20 - 39%
40 - 59%
60 - 79%
80 - 100%

State Labor Standards

Percent (%) of Federal & State Protective Laws of Farmworkers

Source: U.S. Department of Labor (Motivation Education & Training, Inc.)

United States

Subject Category	Specific Regulatory Topic or Protection	Coverage Code	Popular Name or Short Title of Provision
Labor Contractors and Worker Recruitment	Private Employment Agency Licensing		
	Farm Labor Contractor Registration	◐	*Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act*
	Recruitment Standards (Only)		
	Other	◐	*Immigration and Nationality Act*
Labor Relations and Collective Bargaining	General Labor Relations	○	*National Labor Relations Act*
	Agricultural Labor Relations		
	Other		
Pesticides and Agricultural Chemicals	General Application Standards	●	*Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act*
	Aerial Application Standards	●	*Federal Aviation Act of 1958*
	Field Worker Safety Standards	●	*Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act*
	Toxic Substances Disclosure	◐	*Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970*
	Anhydrous Ammonia	◐	*Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970*
	Other		
Transportation	General Employee Transportation Safety		
	Migrant Worker Transportation Safety	◐ ●	*Federal Transportation Laws* *Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act*
	Other	◐	*Immigration and Nationality Act*
Wages and Hours	Minimum Wage	◐ ◐	*Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938* *Immigration and Nationality Act*
	Hour Standards and Overtime Pay	○	*Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938*
	Hour Standards (Only)		
	Wage Payment and Collection	● ◐	*Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act* *Immigration and Nationality Act*
	Agricultural Liens		
	Income Tax Withholding	◐	*Internal Revenue Code of 1954*
	Other		

WASHINGTON
COUNTY,
OREGON

The following is a brief overview of our County's Hispanic Elder Survey Project, conducted with the resources of the VISTA Program throughout 1988 and 1989. Rebecca Hart served as our VISTA volunteer in this, the first year of the Project, which is now known by the title of the Washington County Agency on Aging Minority Elders' Project.

*Due to the fact that the largest of our County's minority populations is that of Hispanics, we began with an emphasis on **that** population. It is now the one we know the most about, due to the results of this survey. However, by design, we have formulated a reorganization of our agency's staffing pattern - along with a funding design for a demonstration program - that encompasses our desire to provide targeted services to **all*** minorities. This is due to the fact that we have an almost equally large population of Asian elders, and a smaller (but growing) population of Eastern European immigrants and refugees.

As a result of this particular survey, our Agency quickly came to realize that in our rural area, dominated by agricultural farmwork, our survey gave us a snapshot of the life circumstances and needs of ***the older Hispanic farmworker*** - a population not well known to our nation's network of agencies on aging, migrant health centers nor to the network of national minority elder organizations.

We appreciate the opportunity to make available this survey instrument to other communities across the country, through the consistent efforts of the Select Committee on Aging to expose the needs of minority elders. We do, however, caution readers that in retrospect we would make some changes to this instrument to increase the accuracy of responses. For this reason and others, we are attempting in 1990 to secure funding to produce a comprehensive report document containing this instrument in both languages, but with added insights on effective delivery methodology, an analysis of reliability, and with some discussion of the value of survey results, how to interpret them and how to apply them at the local level - all from the perspective of a rural agency on aging.

Please do not hesitate to call us!

Sincerely,

Gloria Múzquiz
Gloria Múzquiz
Resource Developer

Mary Lou Ritter
Mary Lou Ritter
Manager

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GENERAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF ELDERLY HISPANICS
WASHINGTON COUNTY AGENCY ON AGING
HILLSBORO, OREGON

VISTA PROJECT, REBECCA HART, VOLUNTEER
AUGUST 1988 TO 1989

Text written and photographs taken by Rebecca Hart

October 1989

NARRATIVE OF REBECCA HART'S 'VISTA' EXPERIENCE, AUGUST 1988 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1989

I served as a VISTA volunteer at the Washington County Agency on Aging in Hillsboro, Oregon from August 1988 to 1989. My project was to do a general needs assessment of the elderly Hispanic people in Washington County because it was felt that their needs weren't being met. A needs assessment of elderly Hispanics had never been done in the area before, so it was felt that with this study the Washington County Agency on Aging could make the first step in better serving the elderly and the disabled Hispanic people in the community.

When I started the project I was a new comer in the area. I had applied for the VISTA position while living out in Washington D.C.. As soon as I heard I got the position, I drove out, passing through my home state of Minnesota, and reached Oregon looking forward to a new adventure, an opportunity to get to know new people in a different part of the United States.

Although I can speak Spanish fluently, I am not a Hispanic person, so I feel I have to make a concerted effort, more than usual, to get to know and understand the Hispanic people that I am working and interacting with. When I moved to Oregon I felt that in order for me to be able to work with the elderly Hispanic population, I had to get to know as much of the community as possible. Since I was from a different area and knew no one in Oregon, I really had to make an effort to situate myself. I had to learn about how the Hispanic community started, how it had grown, how people interacted with each other before and how they do now, and what types of projects had been tried in the past and what was being done now. I wanted to get to know the community and have them be confident of my sincerity and capabilities so that I could really be able to serve and help them.

After I was oriented around the Washington County Agency on Aging, in its office space and with the programs and services it offers the elderly and disabled populations of Washington County, I started to think of ways that I could get out of the office and get to know that disenfranchized part of the community whose needs I was to identify. I went to the public library to research the history of the area, what had been happening in the Hispanic community as reflected in the local newspapers. By doing this, I got an idea of the some of the problems that had been stirring up the community. Some of these problems were the shortage of workers or surplus of workers (depending on the year), lack of resources to properly house and feed the workers, abuses of the workers by the people who bring them from other places to do contract work in Oregon, and need for bilingual education. Most of the articles were describing problems with younger Hispanics, many of whom were migrant workers from Mexico who were passing through the area.

When I had decided to move out to Oregon and become a VISTA volunteer with elderly Hispanic people I got interesting responses from people. Some told me that VISTA had closed and that I was being taken for a ride. Others told me that there weren't any Hispanics in Oregon anyway. Now that I knew that those first two doubts were unfounded, I wanted to find out where the stable Hispanic population in Washington County was because I thought that was where I would find the elderly or disabled Hispanics.

I contacted the people who I believed to be the leaders in the community, from finding out what agencies serve the Hispanic community and what individuals were mentioned most in the newspaper articles as resources in helping the Hispanics in the area. I told them about my project, that I was going to do a general needs assessment of the elderly Hispanics in the area so that better services can be developed based on the data to be generated by the assessment. The response varied from enthusiastic to lukewarm. Many of the community leaders had seen projects come and projects go without any benefit for the community. Everyone I talked to agreed that the elderly Hispanics had many needs that weren't being met, but not everyone agreed that the best way to go about serving them was to do a study of the needs. Besides, the community leaders had their hands full with their current work load, so even if I had their complete support, I was the one who was going to get this project off of the ground. In the end, the community leaders and those active in the community expressed their concern with the needs of the elderly Hispanics and their intention to extend their services to them (if they weren't serving them already) if they only knew what the needs of the elderly Hispanics were.

Once I knew that it was really up to me to make my project a success, I thought of ways that I could get to know people on a personal level. While I was wondering how to go about doing this, whether or not I should approach people on the street and carry around a bill board that said "Worthwhile person doing worthwhile project" I got a call from a woman who had heard about me and thought I might be interested in a Spanish-English exchange class. I decided to go although I wasn't certain about any of the details, such as who would be there, did we need to bring books, etc. The class ended up being just an informal meeting of some Spanish speaking women with some English speaking women. We met once a week for about 3 months. After the first meeting, I was made the unofficial organizer of the class. We would meet and talk about what we had done for the past week. It was a wonderful way to meet people and find out about them and their lives. It was a good way to start to get to know people.

Since I have always found that people are more themselves around food, I started to go over to the local Hispanic community center, called El Centro Cultural, and make tamales with the senoras every Friday morning. I also volunteered to help out in the kitchen at any big community get togethers that they had ther . The regularity of being at the Centro Cultural once a week and my obvious joy at learning about cooking and eating Mexican food helped me get to know the people who worked there.

The primary objective of my VISTA project was to conduct a general needs assessment of the elderly Hispanic community as I have mentioned before. However when I arrived at the Washington County Agency on Aging they had just received a grant to work jointly with the local migrant health clinic on a study of the health problems of elderly Hispanic people. A similar grant was given to partnerships of agencies concerned with aging issues and agencies involved in health services in two other counties, Hood River and Ontario. Once it was discovered by the three grant recipients that there were similar projects being done, they met to discuss the possibilities of working together. A collaborative effort was formed which took the shape of a three page health survey to be done in the three counties of Hispanic people who were fifty years old or older or those Hispanic people who were disabled.

Since the beginning of my VISTA project coincided with the start of the survey of the health problems of elderly Hispanic people, I was put to work on the health study. I worked on that project for the first four months of my project. I interviewed people, coordinated the efforts of the other interviewers in the Washington County area and also went to oneof the other areas, Hood River County, to help them conduct surveys. After the data collection was finished (due to time restraints not to lack of possible participants), I coded the data, developed the code book to interpret the codes, entered the data into the computer and analyzed the information. All of this was done with the help of professor Dr. Joseph Gallegos and his wife Sheila Gallegos.

My work on the health study introduced me to the world of social research and also into the local Hispanic community. Upon coming into the Hispanic community without knowing anyone, I was forced to go out and meet people while working on the health study. Often when I was getting to know people and setting up times to conduct the interview, I would bring some thing that I had baked to the home of the individual, because I felt I was intruding on that person's private space and wanted to let them know that I appreciated their participation in the survey.

During the time that I was working on the health study, I made myself available for any projects that were going on in the Hispanic community that would possibly need some extra hands to help. After a while I started to get more offers than I could handle. It was ideal. I helped organize and subsequently worked at a health fair where people could go to get their eyes and ears checked. I volunteered weekly at a English as a Second Language class that was held in an apartment complex. I also set up informal English classes with people that I met. I would go to their house once a week and teach a little English and do alot of talking about other things and eating of delicious foods.

In additon to my personal interaction with the Hispanic community, I served as the interpreter at the Washington County Agency on Aging with their Spanish speaking clients. (there were four or five clients) I would help clarify information and go out on home visits with the case managers of the agency when they were going to a Spanish speaking home. It became apparent to me that it would be extremely beneficial for the Washington County Agency on Aging to attain Spanish speaking staff. Throughout the year as I got to know more people, I felt I could have helped connect with services only if there had been a Spanish speaking case worker for me to refer them to at the Washington County Agency on Aging.

After the study on the health needs of elderly Hispanics was completed, I started to work on the general needs assessment. The needs assessment was to differ from the health study in that it would be more intensive, covering more aspects of the life of an elderly or disabled Hispanic person. It should be noted here that although the project was targeted at helping Hispanic elderly minority, the needs assessment, with some minor adjustments, would be a good instrument in assessing the needs of other elderly minorities.

I developed the survey instrument and the methodology from researching other surveys that had been done in Oregon and in other areas on the same topic. I was advised by survey and research experts from Portland State University and from the Northwest Regional Education Laboratory on which questions to ask, how to pose them, and how to attain a good sample of the group I wanted to reach.

During the time that I was concentrating on the general needs assessment, I remained active in the community. I was actually more active than I had been earlier in the year because people were starting to know me and trust me. I was involved in a variety of volunteer ventures. I began to take people who I know had problems with their teeth to a dental clinic held in Portland on Thursday evenings. I would take them to the clinic, translate for them there and take them home.

I volunteered to translate at the local hospitals also, because I thought it would be good to know people in distinct situations. I also translated for the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program during the summer when they have an increase in the number of people they serve.

A larger adventure I embarked on was becoming a labor coach for Spanish speaking women. I was asked by some employees at the local migrant health clinic if I would be interested in being a labor coach for Spanish speaking women. Spanish speaking women often would go to the hospital to have their babies with a complete stranger serving as here interpreter. The clinic was starting a new program to have the interpreter get to know the patient before the birth and for the interpreter to be trained in being a birthing coach. Although I knew nothing about birthing, I decided that it would be an excellent opportunity to learn a great deal personally and to use my ability to speak both English and Spanish to help out some people. I was a labor coach for two births, one in May and the other in August. It was a wonderful experience and the witnessing of miracle of life added an essential dimension of awe to my life.

I also worked as a volunteer at a driver's education class given in Spanish that was held for three nights weekly for two weeks intervals. The average size of the class was 10 people. I worked with one other volunteer going over the driver's manual and answering any questions the students had.

The interviews I conducted for the general needs assessment were often done on the weekends or in the evenings, whenever was most convenient for the respondent. I had an opportunity to reach out to more of the elderly Hispanic population with the general needs assessment because more people in the community knew who I was, I knew who I could contact who could tell me what was going on in the community and because I had a better idea of where to go to find more people.

The timing of the general needs assessment also made it possible for me to reach more people. An example of this is that I went out into the migrant camps to conduct interviews with the general needs assessment, because the interviews were being done in June and July when the camps are being used. I went with people from another agency to visit the camps while they were doing their outreach. While I was there I set up interview appointments with some elderly farm workers for the next weekend.

When I went out to the camp on my own I was uncomfortable because it was an isolated area and there were mostly men there, but the manager of the camp helped. He checked out my project, gathered together all of the people fifty or older and asked them to talk to me. His support helped me win the confidnece of the people I had gone there to interview. It was important to reach at least some part pf the current migrant farm worker population.

At the end of my year. I threw a mariachi party to celebrate the year and my friendship with the Hispanic community. I also held a community meeting to discuss the results of the survey with the objective of coming to a decision for action. At that meeting the seniors decided to organize another Hispanic senior center. They stressed the need to go through each step carefully and avoid the problems that led to the closing of the last Hispanic senior center. They wanted to have training for people who were going to be on the Advisory Council. They wanted to have community meetings in order to become familiar with the rules and bylines of non-profit organizations like senior centers so that it would be clear what the expected plan of action is. During this meeting plans were made to continue meeting and to develop the plans for a new Hispanic senior center.

Throughout my year as a VISTA volunteer, I became familiar with the community. The general needs assessment of elderly or disabled Hispanic people in addition to my volunteer experiences in the community gave me an idea of what I saw the problems to be and what I thought should be done to ameliorate them. The one of the largest problems I saw was the lack of a place where the elderly Hispanic people could get together and feel comfortable. I don't believe that all seniors should be united in the same center and that to separate them breeds division in the community. I believe rather that minority groups should be able to form their own groups where they can continue their traditions. When the minority group has a firm agency started, they will be able to have an exchange with the other centers if that is what they want, inviting others to come and share with them and feeling comfortable going to other centers for their activities. In Washington County, the Hispanic seniors, as they have expressed, need their own senior center. Their efforts to establish this center should be supported by the community as a whole and assisted technically by local agencies.

The Hispanic seniors need help in forming this center: in finding a place to get together, in starting some immediate projects for the community (if sewing project, need someone to find donated machines, material, instructor, etc.), and in communicating with each other and finding out about what is going on (a person to contact seniors and let them know about programs, services offered).

In order to better serve the elderly Hispanic and the disabled Hispanic community, it is necesary to break though the misunderstandings that have developed because lack of direct communication between groups in the community, such as between the Hispanic elderly or disabled and the service agencies. The break down of these barriers will only come through concentrated efforts on behalf of the service delivery agencies on one side and the Hispanic elderly on the other. The efforts should be made by the agencies on all levels ranging from program development to direct personal interaction between the Hispanic elderly or disabled and the personnel of the agencies. The Hispanic elderly on the other hand need to be willing to attend meetings and to contribute their time, experience and opinions for the development of the services to assure the viability of the services or programs to be created.

In this vein, I organized an informal meeting once a month between some concerned elderly Hispanic people in the area and Mary Lou Ritter, the director of the Washington County Agency on Aging. Mary Lou had expressed interest on getting to know people on a personal level, finding out their concerns and having them

get to know her. We met for the first time at a local breakfast spot Saturday morning to discuss what the elderly Hispanics felt were their needs and how they would be better served. At the end of the meeting, the group expressed great interest in continuing the friendly dialogue. Because of efforts made by Mary Lou and by the Hispanic people present, the meeting was a success and the personal communication essential to building trust in the community was started.

The conclusions I can draw from my year experience are not earth shattering. Washington County Agency on Aging knew that there were Hispanic seniors in the area because there had been a Hispanic senior center for nine years. However the center collapsed and its collapse was the reason for my project: to define the needs of the elderly and the disabled Hispanics with hard data so that appropriate services could be provided for current needs. None of the needs found in the study were suprizing: the need for translating services, transportation, health insurance, housing, and the need for a place to come together and feel comfortable, the need to interact socially and be involved with something outside of their daily lives and the need to be recognized as an important and permanent part of the community.

Now that the needs are documented I hope that the needs can start to be met. The research process could be never ending. The effort to reach out to the elderly and the disabled Hispanics should be based on hard data to develop the services and service delivery system appropriate for that population combined with basic human compassion.

For all of the needs assessments and surveys conducted and sitting in front of a computer terminal I did, my volunteer work done outside of the office and the personal interaction I had with the Hispanic community was the crux of my VISTA experience. I can claim no expertise in any field such as cultural awareness or social research, but have gained a greater appreciation for other people and different ways of living through my continued efforts at honest communication and interaction with other people. My year was about people, people who are aging, people who are starting anew, people who are coming to the end of something, people who have great knowledge inside of them and need to come together with others in a place comfortable for them to communicate and perpetuate their greatness.

page 1 (there is no page 2)

The general needs assessment, developed and carried out by the VISTA volunteer Rebecca Hart at the Washington County Agency on Aging, was done to identify the needs of the Hispanic people who are elderly (those who are fifty years or older) or handicapped and to assist then in accessing the services that currently exist.

The survey instrument, written in both English and Spanish, was designed to be used in personal interviews between the interviewer and the respondent. The instrument itself is 19 pages long and dealt with the following areas:

A. Demographic Information
B. Housing and Neighborhood
C. Employment
D. Income
E. Transportation
F. Physical Health
G. Daily Activities
H. Social Contact and Support
I. Services and Problems
J. Cultural Points of View
K. Interviewer's Evaluation
I. Outreach/Information

The development of the survey instrument was based on research conducted of other studies done locally and nationally of the needs of elderly Hispanic people.

COMMUNITY AWARENESS

The general needs assessment of Hispanic people who were handicapped or 50 years or older was publicized in the local English written newspaper and on the local Spanish speaking radio and cable television stations. Rebecca Hart was interviewed for each of the broadcasts. The objective was to inform the people of Washington county of the project to encourage awareness and participation.

METHODOLOGY

The objective of the methodology was to contact and record the responses of as many different individuals as possible. After consulting with research and sample experts from the Center for Population Studies at Portland State University, it was determined extremely difficult to attain an ideal random sample of the target population. The difficulties lay in the fact that the elderly or disabled Hispanic population isn't evenly distributed throughout the county nor is its location known. In order to attain a wide sample of the group a combination of methodologies were used. Target populations were determined by mapping out the addresses of Hispanic clients from service agencies on a county map and by consulting with community workers and leaders. Once high concentrations of Hispanics in a neighborhood became evident, those neighborhoods were approached door to door by the interviewer.

The 'snowball' technique, which means that the respondent in an interview refers the interviewer to another person qualified to participate in the study, in this case to another elderly or handicapped Hispanic person, was used.

Lists of seniors in the area attained from service agencies such as the former Hispanic senior center were also used to locate elderly and handicapped Hispanics.

The interviewer also surveyed elderly or handicapped people that she knew from previous work in the community or that she encountered in public places, such as in the Hispanic cultural center, the Department of Motor Vehicles and the grocery store.

The sample attained through the combination of these techniques was not scientific but it was successful in contacting the greatest number of the target population of elderly or disabled Hispanics as possible. 106 interviews were conducted in the months of June and July, 1989. The surveying came to a halt because of shortage of time not because of lack of prospective respondents.

ANALYSIS OF DATA

Once the data was collected, Rebecca Hart the VISTA volunteer coded and entered the data into a computer. The program developed was on the Spsspx system at the University of Portland. Dan from the University of Portland was extremely helpful in the successful execution of the program.

RESULTS

Number of surveys: 106 interviews were conducted in the months of June and July, 1989. Since every individual who was handicapped or over 50 years old was interviewed, in some houses more than one person was interviewed. Those 106 interviews represent 79 households.

Number of elderly or handicapped in household
:45 of 106, 42.5 % had one in house
:55 of 106, 51.9 % had two in house
: 5 of 106, 4.7 % had three in house
: 1 of 106, .9 % lived in a care center

Interviewers: 105 of the 106 interviews, 99.1 % were conducted by Rebecca Hart. One interview was conducted by a volunteer interviewer. An attempt was made to recruit volunteers however the efforts were not successful due to the amount of time the volunteers needed to commit to the project and the necessity to use volunteers who were not currently working for another service agency in the area. This was seen as important so that the respondents would not associate the survey with any direct services provided to them.

Length of Survey: the average survey lasted 40 minutes.

Language survey conducted in:
98 of the 106 surveys, or 92.5% were in Spanish
2 of 106, 1.9 % in English
3 of 106, 5.7 % in both English and Spanish

Methodology:
20 of 106, 18.9 % knocked on doors
27 of 106. 25.5 % referred by other people ('snowball')
41 of 106, 38.6 % service agency list
14 of 106, 13.2 % met in public place
4 of 106, 3.8 % knew from work in community

GENERAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF ELDERLY HISPANICS
WASHINGTON COUNTY AGENCY ON AGING
HILLSBORO, OREGON

VISTA PROJECT, REBECCA HART, VOLUNTEER
AUGUST 1988 TO 1989

Text written and photographs taken by Rebecca Hart

October 1989

Hello. I am ___________, and I am a volunteer representing the Washington County Agency on Aging. We are doing a study with the help of Dr. Joe [illegible]legos of the University of Portland of the needs of the Hispanic elderly and handicapped in this area. I am very much interested in what the needs of older or handicapped Hispanos are. I would appreciate it very much if you and anyone else in the household who is elderly or handicapped would give me a little time to talk to you about your family, friends and the needs of older people. The answers you provide will help us to learn more about older or handicapped people, their families and their needs. The goal of this survey is to improve services to Hispanic elderly and handicapped people and create new programs to meet the unmet needs. Your participation is valuable to making the study reflection of the opinions and needs of the community. All of the information you provide will be completely confidential.
(At this point you could show them some article written in the newspaper about the project)

A1 Could you tell me if there is anyone who lives here who is Hispanic and is either handicapped or 50 years old or older?
01 yes 02 no A1 __ __
(ASK IF ANSWERED 'YES':)
a.How many people are there 50 and older?____ A1a __ __
b.How many people who are handicapped?___ A1b __ __

A2 Has this survey already been done here?
01 yes 02 no ---if 'yes', when?:________________A2__ __
by whom?:________________
(If responded 'no', please continue:)
A3 Do you think I could talk to those people (or 'to you' if appropriate) or should I come back at another time?
01 yes, now 02 another time ___________ 03 no A3 __ __

If 'NO', thank the person for his/her time and apologize for disturbing him/her.

If 'YES', proceed with the survey.

A4 Since the survey asks people about their individual opinions, I wonder if it would be possible for me to talk to each of the people here over 50 or handicapped separately?
01 arranged individuals meetings
02 just talked to head of household
09 refused A4__ __

Contents

A. Demographics
B. Housing and Neighborhood
C. Employment
D. Income
E. Transportation
F. Physical Health
G. Activities of Daily living
F. Physical Health
G. Activities of Daily Living
H. Social Contacts and Social Support
I. Services and Problems
J. Cultural Values
K. Outreach
1. Interviewer's Assessment

Interviewer:______________________________ X1__ __
Date ___________(month/day) X2__/__ __
Starting time:___________ Ending time:___________ X3__ __ __
Respondent's ID no.________(Same first number if sm hshold, followed by different letter.For example, 1a=husb., 1b=wife in same house) X4__ __ __ __

Coded: X5a By who? ______________________ X5a__ __
: X5b When? ______________________ X5b__ __ __

Verified: X6a By who? ______________________ X6a__ __
X6b When? ______________________ X6b__ __ __
Survey conducted in: 01 Spanish 02 English 03 Both X7__ __

Methodology: X8__ __
01 knocked on doors
02 referred to by other person
03 used list from Petra Perez
04 met in public place. Where?____________ X8a__ __
07 other______________________________

AREA:(city)________________ ~~BLOCK (if knocking on doors)~~______

(INTERVIEWER: REMEMBER THE QUESTIONS THAT ARE YELLOW NEED TO ASK ONLY ON ONE PERSON IN THE HOUSEHOLD IF IS MARRIED PERSON LIVING WITH SPOUSE)

DEMOGRAPHICS (A)

A5 Respondent is (ask only if unclear):
(1) male (2) female A5__ __

A6 How old are you?(Record the exact age)_______________ A6(__/__/__)

A7 [illegible] your marital status now?

01	Married	04	Never married
02	Divorced	05	Widowed
03	Separated	08	don't know
		99	Refused

A7 __ __

(INTERVIEWER: MARK ALL THAT APPLY)
A8 [illegible] lives in your home with you?
(08 Don't know, 99 Refused) A8 __ __

	yes	no		
a.no one, live alone	01	02	if 'yes',	A8a__ __
b.spouse	01	02	how many?	A8b__ __
c.relatives under 18 years old	01	02	_______	A8c__ __/__ __
d.relatives over 18 years old	01	02	_______	A8d__ __/__ __
e.other______________________	01	02	_______	A8e__ __/__ __

(Ask only if unclear)
A9 [illegible] total number of people in the household is:____________ A9 __ __

A10 Let's begin with a few questions about yourself. Could you please tell me where, in what country, you were born? (DO NOT READ CATEGORIES)

00 U.S.A.(state)________	05 South America (Specify County) ______________________
01 Mexico(Specify state) ______________________	07 Other (Specify country) ______________________
02 Cuba	
03 Puerto Rico	08 Don't know
04 Central America (Specify country)__________	99 Refused to answer

A10__ __
A10a __ __

(IF BORN OUTSIDE THE U.S.A., ASK:)
A11. How long have you lived in the U.S.? (WRITE OUT)____________

00	all of his/her life	04	4 years
01	1 year (or less)	08	don't know
02	2 years	99	refused
03	3 years		

A11 __ __

A12 How do you identify yourself? For example, do you call yourself a Mexican, an American, an Hispano, or what? (WRITE ANSWER)______________

01 Mexican 06 American
02 Hispanic 11 Meztizo
03 Mexican American 07 Other
04 Chicano 08 Don't know
05 Latino 99 Refused A12 __ __

A13 Where would you say you have lived most of your life? (READ THE CATEGORIES) WRITE OUT THE ANSWER: ____

(Try to get them to accept one of the alternatives, but if they won't, ask them to describe their community. Alternatively, if they give you a name of a city, town, or township, write it down.)

00 A rural area (open country. 0- 200 families. Or about 999 people)
01 In a town (1000- 2,499 people)
02 In a small city (2,500 - 49,999).
03 In a medium-sized city (50,000-199,999).
04 In a suburb near a large city (analyze but on edge of big city).
05 In a large city (200,000 and over). 08 don't know
07 Other 99 no answer A13 __ __

A14 What was the last grade of school you completed? (Let them answer first. If they have trouble, then read slowly. Circle the year of most advanced education)

NONE	ELEMENTARY	HIGH SCHOOL	VOCA/TECH	COLLEGE	GRAD.	OTH
A	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	9 10 11 12	1 2	1 2 3 4	1 2	B

08 Don't know 99 Refused A14 __ __
Other____

Now I am going to ask you some questions about your language preference:

A15 What language do you speak the majority of the time?

01 Only Spanish 05 Only English
02 More Spanish than English 07 Other______________
03 Both equally 08 Don't know
04 More English than Spanish 99 Refused to answer A15__ __

A16 Do you ever need the help of a translator?

01 yes, all of the time 08 Don't know
02 yes, sometimes 99 Refused
03 never A16 __ __

A17 I am going to ask you what sort of things you can do certain things without an interpreter.

a. Able to speak alittle English with someone you know:
01 yes 02 no A17a__ __
b. Able to speak alittle English with someone you don't know:
01 yes 02 no A17b__ __
c. Apply for a job: 01 yes 02 no A17c__ __

A18 Are you or have you recently been participating in any classes?

01 yes 08 don't know
02 no 99 refused A18__ __

ASK A19 AND A20 IF RESPONDED 'YES':

If yes, what kind of classes?
- *01 English/language*
- *02 job training*
- *03 other________________*
- *08 don't know*
- *09 not applicable*
- *99 refused*

A19__ __

A20 Where have these classes been held?________________________
- *01 school*
- *02 Centro Cultural*
- *03 church*
- *04 apartment complex*
- *05 library*
- *06 home*
- *07 other*
- *08 don't know*
- *09 not applicable*
- *99 refused*

A20__ __

A21 If English classes were available, would you be interested in these classes?
- *01 Yes*
- *02 No*
- *08 Don't know*
- *09 Not applicable*
- *99 Refused*

A21__ __

A22 Lots of people say they need to improve their English skill, but few people regularly attend classes. In your opinion, what's the best way to help Hispanic adults with limited English skills? (If don't get question, explain by giving examples of different kinds of training/classes)__________________________

____

____

____

08 don't know *99 refused* *A22__ __*

B. Housing and Neighborhood

-Now I would like to ask you a few questions about where you live now, your house and your neighborhood.

(ASK B1 IF UNCLEAR)

B1. [illegible] do you live now -- do you live in a(an):
- *01 Mobile home or trailer*
- *02 One- family house detached from any other house (a house itself)*
- *03 One-family house attached to one or more houses (e.g., duplex)*
- *04 Apartment*
- *05 Room in a rooming house or hotel*
- *07 Other (Specify)________________________________*
- *08 Don't know*
- *99 Refused*

B1__ __

B2 Is the place where you live now:
- *01 Owned or being bought by you or by someone else in the household*
- *02 Rented for cash with no subsidies*
- *03 Rented for cash with subsidies (sliding scale)*
- *04 Occupied without payment of cash rent(comes with work)*
- *08 Don't know*
- *99 Refused*

B2__ __

About how much do you spend per month for your mortgage payment or rent? $________________
- *08 don't know*
- *99 refused to answer*

B3__ __ __

B4 Overall, what condition would you say your home is in?
01 Excellent 08 don't know
02 Good 99 refused
03 Fair
04 Poor B4___ ___

(Ask B5 of those who are living with others, be they relatives or friends)
B5 If you had your choice, would you (and your spouse if applicable) prefer to live on your own, or with other people?
01 Alone 08 Don't know
02 With someone else 09 Not applicable B5___ ___
03 No, I like where I am living 99 Refused
04 Another house with same people, /07 Other ________

B6 If you ever got to the point where you could not care for yourself, do you think your children or relatives would take care of you themselves?
01 Yes (skip to B8) 09 Don't have any family
02 No 08 Don't know
07 Other______________ 99 Refused B6___ ___

B7 If your family couldn't care for you, who would you like to look after you?
01 friends and neighbors in your own house 08 don't know
02 have a person from your church come to your house to provide care 99 refused
03 have another professional, like a nurse, come to your home to care for you
04 move into a nursing home or care facility
07 other____________________________________ B7___ ___

I am going to ask you questions about special housing opportunities available for people who are older or handicapped.
B8 Would you be interested in living in an apartment building or in a group of separate homes where some services, for example meals or health care, were available?
01 Yes (skip to B10) 08 Don't know
02 No 09 Not applicable
99 Refused to answer B8___ ___

(IF "NO" OR "DON'T KNOW", ASK:)
B9 What is the main reason you would not be interested (or unsure if you would be interested)?________________________________
____
____ B9___ ___

B10 Would you be interested in living in housing specifically for older people?
01 Yes (skip to B12) 08 don't know
02 No 09 not applicable B10___ ___
99 refused

(IF "NO" OR "DON'T KNOW", ASK:)
B11 What is the main reason you would not be interested (or are unsure if you would be interested)?__________________________
____
____ B11___ ___

B12 Would you be interested in living in housing specifically for older Hispanics?
01 Yes (skip to B14) 08 Don't know
02 No 09 Not applicable
99 Refused to answer B12__ __

(IF "NO" OR "DON'T KNOW", ASK:)
B13 What is the main reason you would not interested (or are unsure if you would be interested?____________________________
____
____B13__ __

B14 What are some of the important things, in your opinion, that make up a good neighborhood? (Probe)
____
____
____B14__ __

B15 Overall, how satisfied are you with this neighborhood as a place to live? Do you feel satisfied, dissatisfied, or mixed?
01 Satisfied 08 Don't know
02 Mixed 99 Refused
03 Dissatisfied B15__ __

(IF DISSATISFIED, ASK B16:)
B16 What is the main reason you are dissatisfied? (Encourage respondent to volunteer information. Could give possible categories)
____
____B16__ __

C. Employment

C1 Are you presently employed? (interviewer: Circle response. Write other)
01 employed full time (Give number of hours per week:____________)
02 employed part time/on call (Give number hours per week:______)
03 not employed and seeking work (Ask, number of hours per week____)
04 participant in work program: give name of program:______________
____
05 not employed and not seeking work
06 not employed because of disability
10 retired with pension 08 don't know C1__ __
07 other__________________________ 99 refused C1a__ __

ASK OF EVERYONE
~~(ASK C2 IF RESPONDENT IS WORKING.READ RESPONSES)~~
C2 All things considered, are you satisfied with ~~the hours you are working~~ ~~in~~ your current employment situation?
01 satisfied 08 don't know
02 dissatisfied-- would like to work less 09 not applicable
03 dissatisfied-- would like to work more 99 refused
04 dissatisfied-- would rather work different shift C2__ __

(IF DISSATISFIED, UNEMPLOYED, OR SEEKING WORK, ASK:)

(What is the main reason preventing you from working the hours that you would prefer? (WRITE OUT ANSWER)____

01 No job available — *07 Other*
02 No transportation — *08 don't know*
03 Wages too low — *09 doesn't apply*
04 Not enough education/skill/training — *99 refused*
05 Age discrimination: feel people don't think can do job due to age
06 Race discrimination:feel people don't think can do job due to race
11 Sex discrimination: feel people don't think can do job due to sex
12 Too old/illness or disability make it impossible
13 Must care for house, children
14 Migrant worker between jobs
15 Bad weather (has impeded me from actively looking)
16 Student taking classes
17 Language/communication difficulties
18 Don't want to work anymore — *C3__ __*
19 Disabled

C4 What kind of work have you done most of your life?
WRITE OUT RESPONSE:____________________________________

01 manual agricultural laborer: picking, planting, weeding
02 other labor; construction, factory work, cannery work, custodial work, housecleaning
03 skilled labor: carpentry, baker, shoe maker, electrician, mechanic, mason.
04 skilled agricultural work: management position, fork lift driver, operative, etc.
05 housewife — *08 don't know*
06 professional: teacher, nurse, lawyer — *09 hasn't ever worked*
10 seasonal agricultural worker — *99 refused*
07 other — *C4__ __*

(ASK IF PERSON HAS AGRICULTURAL WORK:)

C5 How long have (or did) you work in agriculture?____________________________

01 1-5 months	*05 11-20 years*	*09 Not applicable*
02 6-12 months	*06 21-30 years*	*99 refused*
03 1-5 years	*07 30+ years*	
04 6-10 years	*08 Don't know*	

C5__ __

INCOME:

D1 ~~For these income~~ sources listed, which one is your main source of income? ~~(Read the list.)~~ or, what source do you rely on the most? (Circle one only).

01 A job	*12 Food stamps*
02 Social security (blue check,tn env)	*13 GA*
03 SSI (gold check, blue envelope)	*14 AFDC (Assistance to Families with Dependent Children)*
04 Veteran's benefits	*15 Relatives*
05 Other retirement provisions	*16 Housing assistance*
06 Worker's compensation	*17 Energy Assistance*
10 Disability insurance	*07 Other__________________*
11 Income from stocks, bonds, insurance, RE, savings	*08 Don't know*
	99 Refused

D1__ __

D2. Have you had any trouble receiving your pensions or public services benefits, such as those from (Social Security, SSI, Unemployment, etc.)?

01 Yes *09 Not applicable*
02 No *99 Refused* *D2__ __*
08 Don't know (IF NO OR DON'T KNOW, SKIP D2a)

D2a. What kinds of problems have you had?____________________________

____

____

D2a__ __

D3. Were there any months last year during which you did not receive any income? *01 yes* *08 don't know*
02 no *09 not applicable*
99 refused *D3__ __*
----if yes, how many months?________ *D3a__ __*

D4. How much money did you make per month during the months that you had a steady income(before taxes)?
(RECORD AMOUNT) (__/__/__/__) (Spaces:$9999) *D4 _ _ _ _*

TRANSPORTATION

E1 How do you get to the places you need to go? Do you usually...
(READ CATEGORIES) (ONE MODE IS PREFERABLE; IF USE TWO, MARK "1" FOR PRIMARY MODE, "2" FOR SECONDARY) *First choice: __ __(E1)*
Second choice:__ __(E1a)
01 Walk
02 Drives car
03 Ride with someone you live with
04 Ride with a friend or relative who doesn't live with you
05 Take a bus
06 Take a taxi
10 Takes senior bus (Broadway)
07 Other (SPECIFY) (1st)______________ (2nd)______________
08 Don't know
09 Not applicable (don't go out at all--DON"T READ) *E1__ __*
99 Refused *E1a__ __*

E2 Are you ever unable to get to where you need to go using your first two choices of transportation?
01 Yes *08 Don't know*
02 No *99 Refused* *E2__ __*

(If "YES", ask E3)
E3 Why did you have problems? What kind of problems were they? What was your MAIN problem did you have with your first choice of transportation? (E3a) ____________________________________
(Ask if had secondary choice) What was your MAIN problem with you r second choice of transportation?(E3b)____________________________
01 Gasoline costs too much
02 Don't drive/ My physical condition prevents me from driving
03 No car available *07 Other* *E3__ __*
04 Public transportation not available *08 don't know* *E3a__ __*
05 Public transportation too far away *09 No applicable* *E3b__ __*
06 Cabs/bus too expensive *99 Refused*
10 Volunteer transportation not available
11 Reluctance to ask
12 Weather bad- didn't want to wait for bus
13 No ride available

E4 Do you or anyone living in your household have a current driver's license?
01 Yes- self 03 Yes- other 08 Don't know
02 No - no one 04 Yes- self and other 99 Refused E4___ ___

F. Physical Health

Now, I would like to ask you some questions about your physical health.
F1 How would you rate your overall health at the present time --- excellent, good, fair, poor, or very poor? (Read list)
01 Excellent 05 Very Poor
02 Good 08 Don't know
03 Fair 99 Refused
04 Poor F1___ ___

F2 Does your health prevent you from doing things/activities that you would like to do?
01 yes 08 don't know 99 refused F2___ ___
02 no 09 not applicable

F3 These next questions are about any specific illnesses or symptoms you might have and whether or not you are receiving treatment for it.

First, do you have any of the following at this time?	YES	NO	DK	If yes, are you currently being treated? Yes	No	F3___ ___
a.High blood pressure	1	2	3	1	2	F3a___ ___/___ ___
b.Joint problems (arthritis, gout, rheumatism)	1	2	3	1	2	F3b___ ___/___ ___
c.Diabetes	1	2	3	1	2	F3c___ ___/___ ___
d.Respiratory problems (bronchitis, asthma)	1	2	3	1	2	F3d___ ___/___ ___
e.Skin problems (skin rashes, eczema, or bed sores)	1	2	3	1	2	F3e___ ___/___ ___
f.Hearing problems	1	2	3	1	2	F3f___ ___/___ ___
g.Eyesight problems	1	2	3	1	2	F3g___ ___/___ ___
h.Other____________	1	2	3	1	2	F3h___ ___/___ ___

If respondent receiving treatment or attention, ASK F4, F5 and F6:]
F4 What kind of help are you receiving? (Read list)
09 Not applicable F4___ ___

	Yes	No	DK	Refused	
a.Prescribed medicine	01	02	08	99	F4a___ ___
b.Physical therapy	01	02	08	99	F4b___ ___
c.Occupational therapy	01	02	08	99	F4c___ ___
d.Speech therapy	01	02	08	99	F4d___ ___
e.Nursing care	01	02	08	99	F4e___ ___
f.Other__________________________	01	02	08	99	F4f___ ___

(Ask F5 if respondent is taking medicine or receiving treatment:)
F5 Do you take the medicine or follow the treatment that has been prescribed to you? 01 yes 02 no 09 no applic. F5___ ___
-- if not, why not?

	YES	NO	DK	Refused	
a.Unpleasant side effects	01	02	08	99	F5a___ ___
Too expensive	01	02	08	99	F5b___ ___
c.Sometimes forget	01	02	08	99	F5c___ ___
d.Don't think it really works	01	02	08	99	F5d___ ___
e.Don't think I really need it	01	02	08	99	F5e___ ___
f.Other__________________________	01	02	08	99	F5f___ ___

F6 Who is providing the health care or treatment that you are receiving?

____

Husband or wife
02 Other relatives
03 Friend or neighbor
04 Health professional (doctor, nurse)
05 Chiropractor
07 other
08 don't know
09 not applicable
99 refused to answer

F6__ __

F7 How many times would you say you needed a doctor's attention in the past year?("doctor" meaning any formal medical professional; e.g., clinic nurse, physician assistant, etc.)

____

(WRITE ACTUAL NUMBER OF TIMES)

F7__ __ __

a. Did you go to a doctor each of these times?

01 Yes
02 No
08 Don't know
09 not applicable
99 refused

F7a__ __

F8 Where do you usually go for your health care? (Probe for one answer)

01 Private physician
02 Virginia Garcia HC
03 St. Vincents
04 Emergency Room
07 Other______________
08 Don't know
99 Refused

F8__ __

F9 Have you ever gone to the emergency room for treatment?

01 yes
02 no
08 don't know
09 not applicable
99 refused

F9__ __

---if yes, how many times in the past year?____

F9a__ __

F10 Have you ever gone to someone else besides a doctor for treatment/help during your illnesses?

01 Yes (If yes, skip question F11)
02 No
09 Not applicable
99 Refused

F10__ __

(IF RESPONDED "YES", ASK:)

F11 Did you go to a friend, family member, a curandero (yerbero, healer, herbalist) or someone else?

01 Friend
02 Family member
03 Curandero(yerbero, healer, herbalist)
04 A person who massages ('soba')
07 other__________________________
08 don't know
99 refused

F11__ __

F12 Do you have any problems with your teeth (or dentures)?

01 Yes
02 No
08 Don't know
08 Don't know
99 Refused

F12__ __

F13 Do you have dentures, either partials or complete?

01 Yes
02 No
99 Refused

F13__ __

F14 When was the last time you went to the dentist/denturist?

(write out answer)______________________________

00 Never have gone
01 Within this last year
02 Within 2 years ago
03 Within 3 years ago
04 Within 4 years ago
08 Don't know
99 Refused

F14__ __

F15 We are interested in the reasons why people have problems in receiving good health care, care from both dentist and doctors.

Do you have any difficulties in obtaining good health care? Do you feel you need medical care or treatment that you are not receiving?

01	Yes	08	don't know	
02	No	99	refused	F15___ ___

(IF ANSWERED "YES", ASK F16:)

F16 I am going to read you a list of things that usually make it difficult to get good health care. Just tell me if these apply to you. (Read responses. Circle answer)

	Yes	No	DK	RF	F16___ ___
a.Not enough money to pay for doctor	01	02	08	99	F16a___ ___
b.Cannot get to doctor's office because of bad transportation	01	02	08	99	F16b___ ___
c.Do not have insurance	01	02	08	99	F16c___ ___
d.My doctor will not accept Medicare or Medicaid	01	02	08	99	F16d___ ___
e.My doctor does not like to treat older people	01	02	08	99	F16e___ ___
f. Couldn't find a doctor that I liked	01	02	08	99	F16f___ ___
g.Going to the doctor makes me feel uneasy or afraid	01	02	08	99	F16g___ ___
h.Don't know where to go	01	02	08	99	F16h___ ___
i.Can't get there because of physical condition	01	02	08	99	F16i___ ___
j.Takes too long to get an appointment	01	02	08	99	F16j___ ___
k.Language/communication difficulties	01	02	08	99	F16k___ ___
l.Other (SPECIFY) ______________________ ______________________	01	02	08	99	F16l___ ___

F17 How do you pay for your health care?

01	all privately	08	don't know	
02	partially private, partially insurance	09	not applicable	
03	all insurance	99	refused	F17___ ___
07	other______________________________			

(ASK F18 IF HAVE INSURANCE:)

F18 What kind of insurance do you have? (exact name) F18___ ___

______________________________ F18a___ ___

(INTERVIEWER: WRITE DOWN RESPONSE. IF RESPONDENT UNCLEAR, ASK IF COULD SEE INSURANCE CARD. Also, could read following list)

01 Medicaid (65+ and have enough work credits or have "care plan". If have green card (210's and 245's, emergency medical only.)
02 Medicare Plan A Only (hospitalization only.This is premium free)
03 Medicare Plan A and B (hospitalization and doctor's bills)
04 Medicare Disability
05 Medicare SSI

(continuation of insurance options)
06 Private insurance: Hospitalization and
doctor's bills (Blue Cross and Blue Shield
Major Medical and others)
10 Health Maintenance Organization (HMO)
2 ways: through employer or if
have Medicaid A+B if 65 and older
07 Other

F19 Are you handicapped or disabled? 01 yes 02 no F19___ ___
F19a If you are, since when have you been disabled? (year)__________ F19a___ ___
F19b Did your disability result from an accident at work? 01 yes 02 no F19b___ ___

F20 Do you have or have you had any emotional problems? 01 yes 02 no F20___ ___
F20a If 'yes', do you feel that you would benefit from talking to
someone about them (these problems)? 01 yes 02 no F20a___ ___

G.Activities of Daily Living

Now I would like to ask you about some of the activities of daily living, things that we all need to do as a part of our daily lives. The reason we ask this following set of questions is because they are questions that are used nationwide to determine the needs of older or handicapped people. I would appreciate your patience with these questions. I would like to know if you can do these activities without any help at all, if you need some help to do them, or if you can't do them at all. (Be sure to read all RESPONSES)

G1 Can you use the telephone...
01 without help, including looking up numbers and dialing
02 with some help (can answer phone or dial operator in an emergency, but eds a special hone or help in getting the number or dialing
03 or are you completely unable to use the telephone?
09 doesn't have a telephone/not applicable
99 refused to answer G1___ ___

G2 Can you go shopping for groceries or clothes [ASSUMING SUBJECT HAS TRANSPORTATION]
01 without help (taking care of all shopping needs yourself, assuming you had transportation),
02 with some help (need someone to go with you on all shopping trips),
03 or are you completely unable to do any shopping?
99 not answered G2___ ___

G3 Can you prepare your own meals...
01 with out help (plan and cook full meals yourself),
02 with some help (can prepare some things but unable to cook full meals yourself),
03 or are you completely unable to prepare any meals?
99 not answered G3___ ___

G4 Can you do your housework...
01 without help (can clean floors or work in the yard, etc)
02 with some help (can do light housework or yardwork but need help with heavy work)
03 or are you completely unable to do any housework or yardwork?
99 not answered G4___ ___

G5 Can you take your own medicine...
01 without help (in the right doses at the right time),
02 with some help (able to take medicine if someone prepares it for you and/or reminds you to take it)
03 or are you completely unable to take your medicines?
99 not answered G5___ ___

G6 Can you handle your own money...
01 without help (write checks, pay bills, etc.)
02 with some help (manage day-to-day buying but need help with managing your checkbook and paying your bills),
03 or are you completely unable to handle money?
99 not answered G6___ ___

PHYSICAL ADL

G7 Can you eat...
01 without help (able to feed yourself completely),
02 with some help (need help wit cutting, etc.)
03 or are you completely unable to feed yourself?
99 not answered G7___ ___

G8 Can you dress and undress yourself...
01 without help (able to pick out clothes, dress and undress yourself)
02 with some help
03 or are you completely unable to dress and undress yourself?
99 not answered G8___ ___

Can you take care of your own appearance, for example combing your hair and (for men) shaving?
01 without help
02 with some help
03 or are you completely unable to maintain your appearance yourself?
99 not answered G9___ ___

G10 Can you walk...
01 without help (except from cane)
02 with some help from a person or with the use of a walker, or crutches, etc.,
03 or are you completely unable to walk?
99 not answered G10___ ___

G11 Can you get in and out of bed...
01 without any help or aids,
02 with some help (need help getting in and out of the tub, or need special attachments on the tub),
03 or are you completely unable to bathe yourself?
99 not answered G11___ ___

G12 Can you take a bath or shower...
01 without help,
02 with some help (need help getting in and out of the tub, or need special attachments of the tub),
03 or are you completely unable to bathe yourself?
99 not answered G12___ ___

G13 Who is the person that helps you the most?
NAME:(OPTIONAL)____________________
RELATION:(see list)______________________.
PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT:______________________
(if applicable)

01 Spouse
02 Son
03 Daughter
04 Brother
05 Sister
06 Grandchild
10 Other relative
11 Friend/neighbor
12 Minister/church
13 Volunteer
14 Outreach worker
15 Social/case worker
16 Doctor/health profess.
17 Mental health/therapist
07 Other________________
08 No one/Don't have one
99 Refused G13__ __

G14 When you have a problem that you can't solve yourself, who do you contact? Do you call an agency or do you first talk to (person above) ?
01 primary helper
02 agency
03 neither
07 other____________________
08 don't know
99 refused G14__ __
(IF RESPONDED ANSWERED "AGENCY" ASK G15:)
G15 What agency do you call? (write down name of agency)
____ G15__ __

I am going to ask some questions about how you find out about what is going on.
G16 Do you read the newspaper?
01 yes
02 no
G16a. If 'yes', do you read it in Spanish, English, or both?
01 Spanish
02 English
03 both
99 refused
G16__ __
G16a__ __

G17 Do you watch television?
01 yes
02 no
G17a. If 'yes', do you watch Spanish stations, English or both?
01 Spanish
02 English
03 both
99 refused
G17__ __
G17b__ __

G18 Do you listen to the radio?
01 yes
02 no
G18a. If 'yes', do you listen to Spanish stations English or both?
01 Spanish
02 English
03 both
99 Refused
G18__ __
G18a__ __

SOCIAL SUPPORTS AND FAMILY

These questions have to do with how often you get to visit with friends and with your family.

H. Social Contact and Social Supports

H1 How often do you feel isolated and alone..(READ CATEGORIES)
01 None of the time
02 Some of the time
03 Most of the time
04 All of the time
08 don't know
99 refused
H1 __ __

H2 Now I want to ask you a few questions about how you spend your time. About [illegible] often do you visit with any of your neighbors, either in their homes or in [illegible]ir own? Would you say at least once a week, at least once a month, less than once a month, or never?

01 At least once a week
02 At least once a month
03 Less than once a week
04 Never
08 Don't know
99 Refused to answer

H2___ ___

H3 How often do you get together with friends or relatives-- I mean thing like going out together or visiting in each other's homes? Would you say at least once a week, at least once a month, less than once a month, or never?

01 At least once a week
02 At least once a month
03 Less than once a month
04 Never
08 Don't know
99 Refused to answer

H3___ ___

H4 How often do you attend church or religious services? Would you say at least once a week, at least once a month, less than once a month, or never?

01 At least once a week
02 At least once a month
03 Less than once a month
04 Never
08 Don't know
09 Not applicable
99 Refused to answer

H4___ ___

I would like to ask you another question about religion.

H4a. Do you believe that your faith helps you deal with your problems?

01 yes, very much
02 yes, alittle
03 no, not really
04 no, not at all
08 don't know
99 refused to answer

H4a___ ___

H5 Do you belong to any clubs or organizations such as church groups, senior citizen's groups, fraternal groups, or the like?

01 Yes
02 No (skip to H7)
99 Refused to answer

H5___ ___

H6 Altogether, how often do you attend meetings of the clubs or organizations to which you belong? Would you say at least once a week, at least once a month, less than once a month, or never?

01 At least once a week
02 At least once a month
03 Less than once a month
04 Never
07 Other_________________
08 Don't know
99 Refused to answer

H6___ ___

H7 In a typical week, how many times do you talk on the telephone with family members, friends or neighbors? Would you say at least once a day, at least once a week, or at least once a week, less than once a month or never?

01 At least once a day
02 At least once a week
03 At least once a month
04 Less than once a month
05 Never
08 Don't know
99 Refused to answer

H7___ ___

H8 How often do you get out of your house (home or apartment)? (Pause) Would you say: every day, two or three times a week, once a week, or almost never?

01 Everyday
02 Two or three times a week
03 Once a week
04 Almost never (once a month or less)
05 Never (if homebound)
08 Don't know
99 Refused to answer

H8___ ___

I4 Have you had any contact or received services or assistance from the following groups or agencies in the last year? (Read list. Circle yes or no)

			Have you ever gone to them for services?		
	Yes	No	Yes	No	
a.Centro Cultural	01	02	01	02	I4a__ __/__ __
b.Virginia Garcia Health Clinic	01	02	01	02	I4b__ __/__ __
c.St. Vincents	01	02	01	02	I4c__ __/__ __
d.St. Alexander's	01	02	01	02	I4d__ __/__ __
e.Rural Workers Association (Nibaldo)	01	02	01	02	I4e__ __/__ __
f.Oregon Legal Services	01	02	01	02	I4f__ __/__ __
g.Oregon Human Development Corp.	01	02	01	02	I4g__ __/__ __
h.Former Hispanic Senior Center(Pet.Per)	01	02	01	02	I4h__ __/__ __
i.Other Senior Centers	01	02	01	02	I4i__ __/__ __
j.Washington County Community Action (used to be CAPP, now WCCAO)	01	02	01	02	I4j__ __/__ __
k.Adult and Family Services(food stamps)	01	02	01	02	I4k__ __/__ __
l.Ayuda	01	02	01	02	I4l__ __/__ __
m.Trimet	01	02	01	02	I4m__ __/__ __
n.Broadway Transportation (senior bus)	01	02	01	02	I4n__ __/__ __
o.Housing Authority	01	02	01	02	I4o__ __/__ __
p.Immigration and Counselling Services	01	02	01	02	I4p__ __/__ __
q.Other ______________________	01	02	01	02	I4q__ __/__ __

Now I would like to ask you what you think about some services that we have thought of to better serve you. I would like to find out what you think about them.

I5 First of all, would you be interested in a program that would deliver hot meals to your home?

01 Yes (skip to I7) 08 don't know
02 No 99 refused to answer I5__ __

*I6 What is the main reason you would not be interested (or unsure if you would be interested)*______________________________________
____
____ I6__ __

I7 If a program offered group meals for elderly or handicapped Hispanic people, would you be interested in such a program?

01 Yes 08 Don't know
02 No (skip to I9) 99 Refused I7__ __

(ASK I8 IF ANSWERED "YES":)

*I8 What kind of setting would you be most likely to enjoy? (WRITE OUT)*______________________________________

01 private home
02 restaurant
03 community center for all ages
04 center for only older people
05 Church
07 other
08 don't know
09 not applicable
99 refused

I8__ __

(IF I7 was "NO" OR "DON'T KNOW", ASK:)

*What is the main reason you would not be interested (or are unsure if you would be interested)?*______________________________
____
____ I9__ __

I10 If there were a senior center specifically for older Hispanics, would you be interested in it?
01 Yes 08 don't know
02 No (skip to I12) 99 Not answered I10__ __

(IF I9 was "NO" OR "DON'T KNOW", ASK:)
I11 What is the main reason you would not be interested (or are unsure if you would be interested)?______________________
____
____ I11__ __

I12 Are there any skill, hobbies, activities that you enjoy doing now or that you used to do?
01 yes 08 don't know I12__ __
02 no 99 refused
(IF RESPONDED "YES", ASK I13:)
I13 If 'yes', what are these skills, hobbies? (Write down up to 3 responses. Read list if necessary) I13__ __
1.______________________________ I13a__ __
2.______________________________ I13b__ __
3.______________________________ I13c__ __

01 Sewing/Handiwork/knitting	07 other
02 Gardening	08 don't know
03 Socializing	09 not applicable
04 Carpentry	99 refused
05 Reading	
06 Cooking	

(IF ANSWERED "YES", ASK I14:)
I14 What sort of activities do you think should go on in a center for elderly Hispanic people? (INTERVIEWER: IF CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING, COULD SUGGEST ARTS AND CRAFTS, SEWING CLASSES, COOKING, PAINTING, BILLIARDS, SOCIALIZING, ETC. In other words, things that go on at other senior centers)
____
____ I14__ __

I15 Would you be interested in working as a volunteer?
01 yes 08 don't know
02 no (skip to I18) 99 refused I15__ __
(IF ANSWERED 'YES', ASK I16 and I17:)
I16 Do you have any ideas about what you like to volunteer doing?
____
____ I16__ __
I17 Would you like to volunteer at a bilingual preschool where you would help out and teach children about your culture, your customs, the way life was when you were growing up?
01 Yes (skip to I19) 08 don't know
02 No 99 Refused to answer I17__ __
I18 What is the main reason you would not be interested in volunteering (or are unsure that you would be interested)?______________________
____
____ I18__ __

J Cultural Values

J1 At what age is a person considered ELDERLY in your (ethnic identifier) community? (WRITE AGE) __/__/__ J1 __/__/__

L What do you think determines when a person is considered old? (CIRCLE ONE. EXPLAIN IF NOT '1', '2'. OR '3')_______________

____

____

____

01 age only
02 health
03 outlook on life
04 combination
07 other
08 don't know
99 refused to answer
J2__ __

J3 How do you feel about the way you are now being treated as an older (or handicapped if applicable) person?

01 very satisfied
02 somewhat satisfied
03 not satisfied at all
08 don't know
99 refused to answer
J3__ __

J4 Also, when you were young, you learned about how Hispanic people help each other during time of need. Could you tell me how do Hispanic people take care of each other in times of need?

__ ____

__ ____

____ *J4__ __*

(ASK J5 if person came from different state, country or is identified him/herself as being from another culture)

J5 If you were in (place where person came from) and your family wasn't le to take care of you, what would you do?

____

____

____ *J5__ __*

J6 I wonder if you could tell me what your status is here. I know this is a sensitive question and am asking it because it is important to the development of services. If you would share that information with me I would really appreciate it. It will make the results of this survey more effective. I would like to assure you again of the confidentiality of everything in this survey.

(INTERVIEWER: WRITE OUT ANSWER)______________________________

Are you a:

01 Doesn't have permit (illegal)
02 Tourist VISA
03 Work permit
04 Temporary Resident
05 Permanent Resident
06 U.S. citizen
07 Other
08 Don't know
99 Refused to answer
J6__ __

J7 How many months of the year do you live in this area?_________ J7__ __

Thank you very much for having taken the time to participate in this study. With your contribution we will we able to gather current information on the needs of the Hispanic community, in particular the elderly or disabled people. Once we have this information we will be able to improve the services available and create services for the needs that aren't being met. nks again.

TO: The Washington County Agency on Aging
Now that we have talked about your needs, I wonder if there is any information about any programs or anything that you need.

I would like information concerning the following services:

(CIRCLE NUMBERS OF SERVICES YOU ARE INTERESTED IN)

DIET AND HEALTH
1. Home-Delivered Meals
2 Group Meals
3. Food Stamps
4 Nutritional Counseling
5. Home Health Aide
6. Health Clinic
7. Friendly Visiting
8. Telephone checking
9. Adult Day care
10.Health insurance information
11. Health insurance information

*Notes:*___________________________
____
____
____
____

HOUSING
11. Rent Supplements
12. Low rent housing
13. Relocation Assistance
14. Chore Services
15. Home Repair Services
16. Weatherization/Energy
17. Emergency Shelter
18. Elderly Housing

EMPLOYMENT & ACTIVITIES
19. Employment Services
20. Volunteer Opportunities
21. Continuing Education
22. Recreation Programs
23. Senior Centers

OTHER
24. Legal Services
25. Consumer Education
26. Financial Assistance
27. Money Management

Please have an information and assistance worker:
___ *visit me at home (Good hours ____________________)*
___ *telephone me at home (Good hour to call _______________)*
___ *mail me the information*

*Name:*____
*Address:*____
(street)
____
(city, state and zip code)
*Telephone number:*________________________________

Ending time:________

INTERVIEWER'S EVALUATION

Please complete immediately after conducting interview.

1. Would you say that the interviewee was cooperative and at ease or hostile?

- *01 cooperative and at ease*
- *02 hostile*
- *03 other*
- *08 don't know*

EV1__ __

2. Identify the questions that caused problems, such as were not understood, etc. (refer to page and item as well as why)

____

____

____

____

____

3. Do you feel that the information given to you was:

- *01 completely reliable*
- *02 mostly reliable*
- *03 somewhat reliable*
- *04 completely unreliable*

EV3__ __

Thank you very much for your time and effort

Buenos Dias/ Tardes: Yo soy___________ y soy una voluntaria ayudando la agencia de los ancianos del condado de Washington. Estamos llevando a cabo un estudio con la ayuda del Profesor Joe Gallegos de la Universidad de Portland sobre las necesidades de la gente hispana que sea mayor o desabilitada quienes viven en este area. Me gustaría hablar con usted acerca de sus necesidades, de su vida y de lo que usted ve que son las necesidades de todo el pueblo. Si hay otra persona en la casa quien es mayor o desabilitado, me gustaría hablar con ellos despues de que hablamos nosotros.

Todo lo que usted me dirá, sus respuestas a mis preguntas, sus ideas y pensamientos, nos ayudará conocer mas a fondo las personas hispanas de edad mayor. Nos ayudará tambien en crear y desarrollar programas y servicios apropiados a las necesidades de las personas.

Todo los informes que usted me den seran absolutamente confidenciales.

A1 Me puede decir si hay una persona hispana aqui que tiene 50 o mas anos o esta desabilitado?

01 sí 02 no A1___ ___

(Si contestó 'sí', pregunte:)

a. Cuántas personas hay que tienen 50 o mas anos? A1a___ ___

b. Cuántas personas desabilitadas hay? A1b___ ___

A2 Ha hecho usted este cuestionario ya?

01 sí 01 no -- si 'sí', cuándo?____________ A2___ ___

con quién?____________

A3 Piensa usted que yo podría hablar con esta (o, estas) personas ahora o mejor vuelvo a otro tiempo?

01 sí, ahora 02 otro tiempo 03 no, nunca A3___ ___

(Si contesta 'no', despida la persona y disculparse por haber tomado su tiempo.)

(Si contesta 'SÍ', proceda con la entrevista)

A4 Este cuestionario se trata de las opiniones individuales de cada persona. Seria posible para mi hablar con la persona (o con cada persona) a solos? Si no les hace bien, puedo hacer el cuestionario con una persona a la vez?

01 hace los arreglos para hablar individuamente

02 habla con quien encabeza la casa

03 no quiso A4___ ___

Contenido

A. Datos Demograficos
B. Vivienda y Barrio
C. Empleo
D. Ingreso
E. Transportacion
F. Salud Fisica
G. Actividades Diarias
H. Contacto y Apoyo Social
I. Servicios y problemas
J. Puntos de vista cultural
K. Evaluacion del entrevistador
L. Informacion de programs/servicios

Entrevistador:__________________________ X1___ ___

Fecha:__________ (mes/dia) X2___/___/___

Tiempo de empezar:__________ Tiempo de terminar:_________ X3___ ___ ___

Num. de ID del respondente:_____ (Mismo primer numero, luego ponga una letra. Por ejemplo, 1a=esposo, 1b=esposa X4___ ___ ___ ___

Codificado: X6a Quién?______________________________ X5a__ __
X6b Cuándo?______________________ X5b__ __ __
Verificado: X7a Quién?______________________ X6a__ __
X7b Cuándo?____________________________ X6b__ __ __
Encuesta hecha en: 01 español 02 ingles 03 both _____ X7__ __

Metodología: 01 llamó a la puerta desprevenida X8__ __
02 fue referido por otra persona
03 usó la lista de Petra Perez
04 le encontró en un sitio publico. Dónde?______________
07 otro ______________________
Área:________ ~~Cuadra(si llamo la puerta desprevenida)~~ X8a__ __
~~X8b__ __~~

(Entrevistador: RECUERDE QUE LAS PREGUNTAS SUBRAYADA CON AMARILLO SON PARA UNA PERSONA DE CADA CASA. NO HACE FALTA PREGUNTARLAS DE CADA INDIVIUO DE LA CASA SI EL RESPONDENTE ESTA CASADO(A) Y VIVE CON SU ESPOSA(O))

A. Datos Demograficos

A5. Respondente es: (pregunte solamente si no es obvio)
01 hombre 02 mujer A5__ __

A6. Cuántos años cumplidos tiene usted?__________ A6__ __ __

A7. Cuál es su estado civil? Está usted...?
01 Casado/a
02 Divorciado/a
03 Separado
04 Nunca casado/a
05 Viudo(a)
08 No sabe
99 No quiso contestar A7 __ __

(Entrevistador: Marque todos los que aplican)
A8 Quién vive con usted aqui en su casa?
(08 no sabe 99 no quiso contestar) A8__ __

	si	no		
a. con nadie, vive solo/a	01	02	si 'sí',	A8a__ __
b. esposo/a	01	02	cuantos son?	A8b__ __
c. parientes menores de 18	01	02	__________	A8c__ __/__ __
d. parientes 18 y mayores	01	02	__________	A8d__ __/__ __
e. otro:______________	01	02	__________	A8e__ __/__ __

(Pregunte no mas para aclarar si es confuso)
A9 Entonces, el número total de las personas viviendo aqui es:
________________ A9__ __

A10 Ahora le voy a hacer algunas preguntas de su origen. Me puede decir usted donde, en qué pais, nació usted? (NO LEA LAS CATEGORIAS)
00 Estado Unidos de Norteamerica- USA (escriba estado)______________
01 Mexico (escriba cual estado)
____
02 Cuba
03 Puerto Rico
04 Centroamerica (escriba cual pais)
____
05 Sudamerica
____
07 Otro (escriba donde)
____
08 No sabe
99 No quiso contestar
A10__ __
(SI NACIDO AFUERA DEL LOS ESTADO UNIDOS, PREGUNTE:) A10a__ __
A11. Por cuánto tiempo ha vivido en los Estados Unidos? (ESCRIBA LA RESPUESTA)__________________________
00 por toda la vida
01 un ano o menos
02 dos anos
03 tres anos
04 cuatro anos
08 No sabe
99 No quiso contestar
A11__ __

A12 Cómo se identifica usted? Por ejemplo, usted se refiere como mexicano o hispano o como? ESCRIBA LA CONTESTACION:______________________

01 Mexicano(a)
02 Hispano (a)
03 Mexicano Americano(a)
04 Chicano(a)
05 Latino(a)
06 Americano(a)
11 Mestizo(a)
07 Other
08 No sabe
99 No quiso contestar

A12__ __

A13 Dónde diría usted que ha vivido por la mayor parte de su vida? (LEA LAS CATEGORIAS) ESCRIBA LA CONTESTACION:______________________

[Trate de hacerles aceptar una de las alternativas dadas, pero si ellos no lo hacen, pideles que le describen su comunidad. En el mismo sentido, si le dan el nombre de una cuidad, pueblo, o area, apuntelo].

00 De un area rural (que sea mas chiquito que un rancho) 0-200 familias, o 0 hasta 999 personas
01 En un rancho/pueblo. 200 familias o mas (1000-2,499 personas)
02 En una cuidad chica. 2,500 personas- 49,999
03 En una ciudad de tamano mediano (50,000-199,999)
04 En una suburbia de una cuidad grande.(no importa que tamano)
05 En una cuidad grande (200,000 o mas).
07 Otro ______________________ A13__ __
08 No sabe
99 No quiso contestar

A14 Hasta que grado llegó usted a estudiar en la escuela? (Déjele contestar y indique el nivel mas avanzado)

NINGUN	PRIMARIA	SECUNDARIA	ENSEÑANZA TECNICA	UNIV	GRAD	OTH
A	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	9 10 11 12	1 2	1 2 3 4	1 2	B

08 No sabe
99 No quiso contestar
Otro______________________ A14__ __

Ahora, le voy a hacer unas preguntas tocante su abilidad de hablar, leer y escribir espanol e ingles.

A15 Qué idioma habla usted la mayoria del tiempo?

01 Solamente español
02 Mas español que ingles
03 Ambos iguales
04 Mas ingles que español
05 Solamente ingles
07 Otro______________________
08 No sabe
99 No quiso contestar

A15__ __

A16 De vez en cuando, usted necesita la ayuda de un interprete para comunicar con otros?

01 Si, todo el tiempo
02 Si, de vez en cuando
03 No, nunca
08 No sabe
99 No quiso contestar

A16__ __

A17 Ahora le voy a preguntar si se puede hacer ciertas cosas sin usar un interprete:

a. Puede hablar un poco de ingles con alguien que conoce?
01 sí 02 no A17a__ __

b. Puede hablar un poco de ingles con alguien que no conoce?
01 sí 02 no A17b__ __

c. Puede buscar trabajo? (Poner la aplicacion, etc)
01 sí 02 no A17c__ __

A´ Está usted asistiendo o ha asistido ultimamente alguna clase?

01 sí
02 no
08 No sabe
99 No quiso contestar

A18__ __

PREGUNTE A19 y A20 SI CONTESTÓ 'SÍ':

A: De qué son/eran las clases?
- 01 lenguaje/ingles
- 02 entrenamiento de trabajo
- 07 otro________________________
- 08 no sabe
- 09 no aplica
- 99 no quiso contestar

A19___ ___

A20 Dónde dan/dieron esta clase? ESCRIBA DONDE:____________________
- 01 escuela
- 02 Centro Cultural
- 03 iglesia
- 04 apartamento
- 05 biblioteca
- 06 casa del respondente
- 07 otro____________________
- 08 no sabe
- 09 no aplica
- 99 no quiso contestar

A20___ ___

A21 A usted le interesaría asistir clases de ingles?
- 01 Si
- 02 No
- 08 No sabe
- 09 No aplica
- 99 No quiso contestar

A21___ ___

A22 En el mismo sentido, mucha gente dice que necesita mejorar su ingles, pero poca gente va seguido a clases de ingles. En su opinion, cuál sería la mejor manera de ayudar a los hispanos adultos que saben poco ingles?____
____
____
____

08 No sabe
99 No quiso contestar
A22___ ___

(Puede presentar el idea de otros tipos de clases que podrian dar)

B. Vivienda y Vecindad

Ahora le quiero hacer algunas preguntas tocante donde vive ahora, su casa y su vecindad.

B1 Vive usted en casa de una familia, dos familias, apartamento, casa mobil, condominio, o que?
- 01 Casa mobil
- 02 Casa de una familia
- 03 Casa de dos familias
- 04 Apartamento
- 05 Alquila un cuarto en una casa particular
- 07 Otro______________________________
- 08 No sabe
- 99 No quiso contestar

B1___ ___

B2 El lugar donde usted vive actualmente es:
- 01 Su propiedad, o esta siendo comporado por usted o alguien de la casa
- 02 Rentada con dinero en efectivo
- 03 Rentada con dinero con la renta bajado segun cuanto gana
- 04 Habitado sin pagar renta con dinero en efectivo(por ejemplo, una persona que no paga renta porque la casa viene siendo incluido en su trabajo)
- 08 no sabe
- 99 no quiso contestar

B2___ ___

(P .GUNTE B3 SI PAGA RENTA O HACIENDO PAGOS PARA COMPRAR LA CASA:

B3 Aproximadamente cuánto gasta usted por mes en el pago de su renta o de la casa? $______________________________ B3___ ___ ___

08 no sabe
99 no quiso contestar

B4 En general, en qué condición diría usted que se encuentra su casa?
01 excelente 08 no sabe
02 buena 99 no quiso contestar
03 regular
04 mala B4__ __

(Pregunte B5 si está(n) viviendo con otros, que sean familiares o conocidos)

B5 A usted (y su esposo si aplica) le (les) prefereria (n) vivir aparte en otra casa a solos o en otra casa con otras personas?
01 Sí, en otra casa a solos 08 No sabe
02 En otra casa con otras 09 No aplica
03 No, le (les) gusta donde estan viviendo ahora /04 Otr. [illegible]
07 Otro_______________ 99 No quiso contestar B5__ __

B6 Si llegaría el tiempo cuando usted no se podía cuidar, piensa usted que sus hijos o parientes le cuidarían?
01 Sí 08 No sabe
02 No 09 No aplica, no tiene familia
07 Otro_________________ 99 No quiso contestar B6__ __

B7 Por si acaso su familia no le podría cuidar, quién le preferiría usted para cuidarle y dónde?
01 amigos y vecinos cuidandole en su casa
02 persona de su iglesia cuidarle en su casa
03 un professional tal como una enfermera cuidarle en su casa
04 cambiar para un asilo donde le podria cuidar
07 otro___________________________________
08 no sabe
99 no quiso contestar B7__ __

Ahora le voy a preguntar de oportunidades de alojamiento especiales para la gente mayor o desabilitada hispana:

B8 A usted le interesaría vivir en un apartamento o en un grupo de casa apartadas donde ofrecerian algunos servicios, por ejemplo, comidas o atencion medical?
01 Sí 08 No sabe
02 No 09 No aplica
99 No quiso contestar B8__ __

(SI CONTESTÓ 'NO', PREGUNTE B9:)

B9 Cuál es la razón principal por qué usted no tendría interes en tal sitio?
____
____
B9__ __

B10 A usted le interesaría vivir en casas en grupos o apartamentos especificamente para gente mayor?
01 Sí 08 No sabe 99 No quiso contestar
02 No 09 No aplica B10__ __

(SI CONTESTÓ 'NO', PREGUNTE B11:)

B11 Cuál es la razón principal por qué no tendría interes en tal sitio?
____
____ B11__ __

B12 A usted le interesaría vivir en casas en grupos o apartamentos
especificamente para gente mayor hispana?
01 Sí 08 No sabe 99 No quiso contestar
02 No 09 No aplica B12__ __

(SI CONTESTÓ 'NO', PREGUNTE B13:)
B13 Cuál es la razón principal por qué no tendría interes en tal sitio?
____
____ B13__ __

B14 En su opinión, cuáles son los factores necesarios a crear
un vecindad agradable? (Por ejemplo, muchas iglesias, casas y
jardines bien cuidados, un parque, etc.)____________________
____
____ B14__ __

B15 En general, está contento con su vecindario como un lugar seguro
para vivir? Se siente satisfecho, descontento, o mas o menos?
01 Satisfecho 08 No sabe
02 Más o menos 99 No quiso contestar
03 Descontento B15__ __

(PREGUNTE B16 SI CONTESTÓ MÁS O MENOS O DESCONTENTO:)
B16 Cuál es la razón principal que no está contento(a)?____________
____ B16__ __
____

C. EMPLEO

C1. Está usted empleado ahora?(Tache respuesta. Escriba 'otro')
Empleado(a) tiempo completo (No. de horas por semana:______)
Empleado(a) medio tiempo/por llamada (Horas por semana:__________)
03 Desempleado(a) en busca de trabajo (Horas por semana :__________)
04 Participante en un programa de entrenamiento: (Nombre del programa:
____
05 Desempleado(a) y NO en busca de trabajo 08 No sabe C1__ __
06 Desempleado por ser incapacitado (desabilitado) 99 No quiso contestar
10 Jubiliado con pension
07 Otro____ C1a__ __

(~~Pregunte C2 si está trabajando~~)
C2 Tomando en cuenta, está usted satisfecho (a) con ~~sus horas de trabajo en su empleo de ahora~~? con la situación de su empleo ahora
01 satisfecho (a) 08 No sabe
02 descontento (a)- le gustaria trabajar menos 09 No aplica
03 descontento (a)- le gustaria trabajar mas 99 No quiso contestar
04 descontento (a)- le gustaria trabajar otras horas C2__ __

(PREGUNTE C3 SI RESPONDIÓ 'DESCONTENTO', 'DESEMPLEADO', 'BUSCANDO TRABAJO:)
C Cuál es la razón principal que le prohibe trabajar cuanto usted quiera?
(Escriba lo que dice):____

01 No hay trabajo
02 No tiene transportaciòn
03 Sueldos desmasiado bajos
04 No tiene bastante educacion/entrenamiento
05 Discriminacion a causa de edad
06 Discriminacion a causa raza
11 Discriminacion a causa de sexo
12 Demasiado grande ya/ fisicamente incapaz de trabajar
13 Tiene cuidar ninos, nietos
14 Trabajabor migrante entre trabajos
15 Mal tiempo le a impedido ir a buscar trabajo
16 Estudiante tomando clases
17 Dificultad en comunicar/diferencia de idiomas
18 Ya no quiere trabajar
19 Desabilitado/incapacitado
07 Otro
08 No sabe
09 No aplica
99 No quiso contestar

C3__ __

C4. Qué tipo de trabajo ha hecho usted por la mayor parte de su vida?
ESCRIBA LA RESPUESTA:____

01 labor agricultural manual: pizcando, sembrando, desenhierbando
02 labor de otro tipo: construccion, en fabrica, caneria, trabajo de limpeiza (en negocios, escuelas o casa privada)
03 un oficio: carpentero, panadero, zapatero, mecanico, electrico, albanil.
04 otro trabajo en agricultura: posicion de gerente o "manager", conductor de maquinas ("fork lift")
05 ama de casa
06 profesional: maestra, enfermera, abogado, medico
10 trabajador agricultural temporal
07 otro
08 No sabe
09 No aplica/no ha trabajado nunca
99 No quiso contestar

C4__ __

(Si el respondente ha hecho trabajo agricultural, pregunte C5:)
C5 Por cuánto tiempo ha trabajado (o, trabajo) en agricultura?
(ESCRIBA)____

01 1-5 meses
02 6-12 meses
03 1-5 years
04 6-10 anos
05 11-20 anos
06 21-30 anos
10 30+ anos
08 No sabe
09 No aplica
99 No quiso contestar

C5__ __

D.INGRESO

D1. De todas fuentes de entrada que hemos puesto en la lista, cuál es su principal fuente de entrada (su ingreso principal)? (Ponga circulo solo en una)____________________

01 Un trabajo (sueldo)
02 Seguro Social (cheque azul,sobre pardo)
03 Ingreso Suplemental de Seguridad (SSI) cheque dorado, sobre azul
04 Beneficios/pension de veterano
C5 Otras pensiones de jubilacion
[illegible] Compensacion de trabajador
[illegible] Aseguranza de desabilidad
11 Ingreson de inversiones, aseguranza, propiedades, interes o ahorros
12 Estampillas de comida
13 GA (Welfare)
14 AFDC (Asistencia a familias con ninos)
15 Parientes
16 Asistencia para vivienda
17 Asistencia para energia
07 Otro:____________________
08 No sabe
99 No quiso contestar

D1__ __

D2 Si usted está recibiendo un pension o algunos beneficios, ha tenido usted algun problema en recibirlo, como lo de seguro social, SSI, Desempleo, etc.?

01 Sí
02 No
08 No sabe
09 No aplica
99 No quiso contestar

D2___ ___

(Si respondió "sí", pregunte:)

D2a. Qué tipo de problema ha tenido usted?____________________________

____

____ D2a___ ___

D3 Habían algunos meses en el año pasado cuando no tenia ingreso constante?

01 sí
02 no
08 no sabe
09 no aplica
99 no quiso contestar

D3___ ___

----si 'sí', cuantos meses?______________ D3a___ ___

D4 En el mismo sentido, durante los meses que hubo ingreso en su casa, cuánto fue en general? (Ponga cantidad exacta)

(__/__/__/__) ($9999) D4__ __ __ __

E. TRANSPORTACION

E1. Cómo llega usted a los sitios donde quiere ir? Normalmente: (Lea las categorias. Es mejor tener no mas una respuesta, pero si da dos, indique cual es el modo primaria y cual el secundario)

01 Camina
02 Maneja un carro
03 Alguien de su casa le lleva
04 Un conocido, amigo o pariente que no vive con el/ella le lleva
05 Toma el autobus
06 Toma un taxi
10 Toma el busesito para los ancianos
07 Otro (1st)______________(2nd)___________
08 No sabe
09 No aplica
99 No quiso contestar

Primaria:___ ___(E1)
Secundaria:___ ___(E1a)

E1___ ___
E1a___ ___

E2 Hay tiempos cuándo usted no puede hacer lo que quiere porque le hace falta transportación?

01 sí
02 no
08 No sabe
99 No quiso contestar

E2___ ___

(Si contestó 'sí', pregunte E3:)

E3 Qué tipo de problema tiene (o, ha tenido) usted? Cuál es (fue) el problema principal con su transportacion primaria?_________________________
(pregunte si aplica):con su secundaria?________________________________

01 Gasoline esta muy caro
02 No maneja/su condicion fisica le impide a manejar
03 No tiene vehiculo disponible
04 Transportacion publica no esta disponible
05 Transportacion esta muy lejos
06 Taxis/autobus muy caro
10 Transportacion 'voluntaria' no disponible
11 No le gusta pedir
12 Mal tiempo- no quiere esperar el bus
3 No hay 'ride' disponible
07 Otro
08 No sabe
09 No aplica
99 No quiso contestar

E3___ ___
E3a___ ___

E4 Usted o alguien que vive en su casa tiene permiso de manejar valido?
01 Sí-el respondente 03 Si- otro(s) 08 No sabe
02 No- nadie 04 Si- el rep. y otro 99 No quiso E4__ __

F. Salud Física

Ahora me gustaría hacerle algunas preguntas sobre su salud.

F1 En general, cómo diría usted que está su salud? Diría que es excelente, bien, regular, mal, o grave?
01 excelente 05 grave
02 bien 08 no sabe
03 regular 99 no quiso contestar F1__ __
04 mal

F2 Le impide su salud en hacer lo que usted quiere hacer?
01 si 08 no sabe 99 no quiso contestar
02 no 09 no aplica F2__ __

F3 Ahora le voy a preguntar si tiene algunas enfermedades especificas y si está recibiendo tratamiento por aquello.

Primero, tiene cualquier de los siguientes enfermedades o males actualmente?				Si 'sí', esta recibiendo tratamiento?		
	Sí	No	NS	Sí	No	
a.Alta presion de sangre	01	02	08	01	02	F3a__ __/__ __
b.Artritis o reumatismo	01	02	08	01	02	F3b__ __/__ __
c.Diabetes	01	02	08	01	02	F3c__ __/__ __
d.Problemas respiratorias onquitis, asma)	01	02	08	01	02	F3d__ __/__ __
e.Problemas de la piel como erupciones, eczema, llagas	01	02	08	01	02	F3e__ __/__ __
f.Sordera/problemas con los oidos	01	02	08	01	02	F3f__ __/__ __
g.Ceguera/problemas con la vista	01	02	08	01	02	F3g__ __/__ __
h.Otro____________________	01	02	08	01	02	F3h__ __/__ __

(Si respondente está recibiendo tratamiento, pregunte F4, F5 y F6:)

F4 Con qué tipo de tratamiento se está curando usted?
09 No aplica F4__ __

	Sí	No	No sabe	No quiso contestar	
a.Medicina recetada	01	02	08	99	F4a__ __
b.Terapia fisica	01	02	08	99	F4b__ __
c.Terapia ocupacional	01	02	08	99	F4c__ __
d.Terapia vocal(para la voz)	01	02	08	99	F4d__ __
e.Cuidado completo	01	02	08	99	F4e__ __
f.Otro____________________	01	02	08	99	F4f__ __

(Pregunte F5 si está tomando medicinas o recibiendo tratamiento)

F5 Toma usted los remedios/ o hace el tratmiento como está recetado?
01 sí 02 no 09 no aplica F5__ __
---si 'no', por qué no?

	Sí	No	
a. Efectos secundarios desagrables	01	02	F5a__ __
b. Muy caro	01	02	F5b__ __
c. A veces me olvido	01	02	F5c__ __
d. No creo que funcione	01	02	F5d__ __
e. No creo que necesito	01	02	F5e__ __
f. Otro____________________	01	02	F5f__ __

F6 Quién está proveyendo tratamiento medical que usted está recibiendo?
______________________________ ______________________________
01 Esposo(a)
02 Otros parientes
03 Amigo(a) o vecino(a)
04 Profesional medical
05 Chiropractor
07 Otro
08 No sabe
09 No aplica
99 No quiso contestar
F6___ ___

F7 Cuántas veces en el año pasado ha necesitado atencion medical? (con decir 'doctor', estoy refiriendo a un profesional medical formal, como una enfermera, asistente de un medico)____________________ F7___ ___
a. Se fue al doctor cada de estas veces?
01 Sí
02 No
08 No sabe
09 No aplica
99 No quiso contestar
F7a___ ___

F8 Normalmente dónde va usted para el cuidado de su salud ?
01 Doctor privado
02 Clinica Virginia Garcia
03 Hospital de St. Vincente
04 Cuarto de Emergencia
07 Otro____________________
08 No sabe
99 No quiso contestar
F8___ ___

F9 Ha ido usted al cuarto de emergencia alguna vez?
01 sí
02 no
08 no sabe
09 No aplica
99 no quiso contestar
F9___ ___
----si 'sí', cuantas veces en el ano pasado?_______ F9a ___ ___

F Ha ido a una persona que no sea doctor medical para tratamiento medical, tal como un curandero, yerbero?
01 sí
02 no
09 No aplica
99 No quiso contestar
F10___ ___

(Si contestó 'sí', pregunte F11:)

F11 A quién acudió usted? A un amigo/conocido(a), pariente, curandero, una persona que soba, o quien?
01 Amigo/conocido
02 Pariente
03 Curandero(yerbero)
04 Una persona que soba
07 Otro____________________
08 No sabe
09 No aplica
99 No quiso contestar
F11___ ___

F12 Tiene usted problemas con sus dientes?
01 sí
02 no
08 no sabe
09 No aplica(no tiene dientes)
99 No quiso contestar
F12___ ___

F13 Tiene usted dentadura postizos (parciales o completa)?
01 Sí
02 No
09 No aplica
99 No quiso contestar
F13___ ___

F14 Cuándo fue la última vez que se fue al dentista?
(Escriba la respuesta)____________________
00 Nunca ha ido
01 Dentro del ano pasado
02 Hace 2 anos
03 Hace 3 anos
04 Hace 4 anos
08 No sabe
99 No quiso contestar
F14___ ___

F15 Estamos también interesados en las razones por qué las personas tienen dificultad en conseguir buen cuidado de salud. Quiero saber si usted ha tenido problemas en conseguir atencion medical? Se siente que necesite atencion o tratamiento que no está recibiendo ahora?________________

01 sí
02 no
08 no sabe
99 no quiso contestar
F15__ __

(Si respondió 'sí', pregunte F16:)
F16 Le voy a leer una lista de problemas que generalmente hacen dificil conseguir buen cuidado de salud. Me gustaria saber si estas se aplican a usted. (Lea la lista)

	Si	No	NSab	NQu	F16 __ __
a. sin suficiente dinero	01	02	08	99	F16a__ __
b. No puede ir a la oficina del doctor por malo transporte	01	02	08	99	F16b__ __
c. No tiene seguro	01	02	08	99	F16c__ __
d. Mi doctor no acepta Medicare o Medicaid	01	02	08	99	F16d__ __
e. A mi doctor no le gusta atender a personas ancianas	01	02	08	99	F16e__ __
f. No podia encontrar un doctor que le gusta	01	02	08	99	F16f__ __
g. Ir al medico me hace sentir nervioso(a)	01	02	08	99	F16g__ __
h. No sabe a donde ir	01	02	08	99	F16h__ __
i No puede ir por mala condicion fisica	01	02	08	99	F16i__ __
j. Tarda demasiado tiempo en poner una cita	01	02	08	99	F16j__ __
k Problemas en comunicar/no hay inprete	01	02	08	99	F16k__ __
l. Otro________________________	01	02	08	99	F16l__ __

F17 Cómo paga usted por sus gastos medicales ahora?
01 con fondos privados (dinero en efectivo)
02 una combinacion de fondos privados y aseguranza
03 aseguranza
07 otro________________________
08 no sabe
09 no aplica
99 no quiso contestar F17__ __

(Si tiene aseguranza, pregunte F18:) F18__ __
F18 Qué clase de aseguranza tiene? (escriba el nombre exacto)
____F18a__ __
(Si el respondente no está seguro, pregunte si puede ver su tarjeta de la aseguranza)

01 Medicaid (65 + anos y tiene bastantes creditos de trabajo o que tenga un 'care plan'-- eso viene siendo una tarjeta nueva cada mes. Si tiene el permiso de trabajar (los 210's y 254's) no mas tienen Medicaid para emergencia)
02 Medicare Plan A: (Quedanza en el hospital solamente. con eso uno no tiene que hacer pagos.)
03 Medicare Plan A + B: (Cuentas medicales y quedanza en el hospital)
04 Medicare (desabilitado)
05 Medicare SSI

06 Aseguranza Privada: Hospitalizacion y cuenta medical
10 Organizacion Medical de Salud (HMO): (Se lo puede tener por dos modos: por el trabajo o si tiene Medicare A + B y tiene mas de 65 anos.
07 Otro

F19 Está usted desabilitado? 01 sí 02 no F19___ ___
F19a Si está desabilitado, cuando resulto desabilitado?(el año)____ F19a___ ___
F19b Fue en el trabajo? 01 sí 02 no F19b___ ___

F20 Padece usted de los nervios? 01 sí 02 no F20___ ___
F20a Si sí, se siente que le haría bien hablar con alguien acerca de eso? 01 sí 02 no F20a___ ___

G. Actividades Diarias

Ahora, me gustaría preguntarle sobre algunas de las actividades de su vida diaria, cosas que todos nosotros necesitamos hacer como parte de nuestra vida diaria. Me gustaría saber si usted puede realizar estas actividades sin ninguna ayuda, o si usted necesita alguna ayuda para hacerlas, o si usted definitivamente no puede hacerlas.

[Asegurese de leer todas las respuestas, si son aplicables:]

ACTIVIDADES INSTRUMENTALES DE LA VIDA DIARIAS

G1. Puede usted usar el teléfono?
01 Sin ayuda, incluyendo buscar el numero y marcarlo
02 con alguna ayuda, (puede contestar el telefono o marcar para hablar con la operadora en una emergencia, pero necesite un telefono especial o ayuda para buscar el numero o marcarlo)
03 O usted definitivamente no puede usar el telefono?
09 No tiene un telefono/no aplica
99 No quiso contestar G1___ ___

G2. Puede usted ir de compras de comida o ropa (suponiendo que el respondente tiene transporte)...
01 sin ayuda (encargandose de todas sus necesidades de compra usted mismo(a), suponinedo que tiene transporte
02 con alguna ayuda (necesita que alguien vaya con usted siempre que va de compras)
03 o usted definitivamente no puede hacer compras?
99 no quiso contestar G2___ ___

G3. Puede prepara sus propias comidas...
01 sin ayuda (planear y cocinar usted mismo(a) comidas completas
02 con alguna ayuda (puede preparar algunas cosas, pero no puede cocinar comidas completas usted mismo(a)
03 o usted definitivamente no puede preparar ninguna comida?
99 No quiso contestar G3___ ___

G4 Puede hacer su propio quehacer...
01 sin ayuda (puede limpiar pisos o trabajar en el patio, etc.)
02 con alguna ayuda (puede hacerr tareas ligeras en la casa o en el patio,
03 o usted definitivamente no puede hacer cualquier trabajo de la casa o del patio?
99 no quiso contestar G4___ ___

G5 Puede tomar su propia medicina...
01 sin ayuda (en las dosis correcta a la hora correcta)
02 con alguna ayuda (puede tomar la medicina si alguien se la prepara y/o le recuerda que la tome)
03 o usted definitivamente no puede tomar su medicina?
99 no quiso contestar G5__ __

G6 Puede manejar su propio dinero...
01 sin ayuda (hacer cheques, pagar cuentas, etc.)
02 con alguna ayuda (manejar sus compras diarias, pero necesita ayuda para manejar su libreta de cheques y pagar sus cuentas)
03 o usted definitivamente no puede manejar dinero?
99 no quiso contestar G6__ __

ACTIVIDADES FÍSICAS DE LA VIDA DIARIA

G7 Puede comer...
01 sin ayuda (capaz de alimentarse completamente solo(a)
02 con alguna ayuda (necesite ayuda para cortar, etc.)
03 o usted definitivamente no puede alimentarse solo(a)?
99 no quiso contestar G7__ __

G8 Puede vestirse y desvestirse solo(a)...
01 sin ayuda (capaz de escoger la ropa, vestirse y desvestirse solo(a)
02 con alguna ayuda
03 o usted definitivamente no puede vestirse y desvestirse solo(a)?
99 no quiso contestar G8__ __

G9 Puede cuidar su propia apariencia, por ejemplo peinarse (y los hombres rasurarse)...
01 sin ayuda
02 con alguna ayuda,
03 o usted definitivamente no puede cuidar su apariencia usted mismo(a)
99 no quiso contestar G9__ __

G10 Puede caminar..
01 sin ayuda (a excepcion de un baston)
02 con ayuda de una persona o con el uso de muletas, andador, etc.
03 o usted definitivamente no puede caminar?
99 no quiso contestar G10__ __

G11 Puede entrar y salir de la cama...
01 sin ninguna ayuda o auxiliares
02 con alguna ayuda (ya sea de una persona o con la ayuda de algun aparato)
03 o es usted totalmente dependiente de alguien mas para que lo(a) levante?
99 no quiso contestar G11__ __

G12 Puede tomar un baño de tina o regadera...
01 sin ayuda,
02 con alguna ayuda (necesita ayuda para entrar y salir de la tina, o necesita accesorios especiales en la tina)
03 o usted definitivamente no puede banarse solo(a)?
99 no quiso contestar G12__ __

G13 Quién es la person que le ayuda lo más?
Nombre:(opcional)________________________________
Relación(como le conoce. Vea la lista abajo. Escriba lo que dice actualmente):________________________________
Sitio donde trabaja: (para saber si es parte de su trabajo)
____

01 esposo(a)
02 hijo
03 hija
04 hermano
05 hermana
06 nieto

10 Otro pariente
11 Amigo(a)/Vecino(a)

12 ministro/cura/monja
13 voluntario
14 trabajador de 'outreach'
15 trabajador social
16 profesional medical/de salud
17 profesional de bienestar mental (psicologo,etc.)
07 Otro
18 nadie le ayuda
99 no quiso contestar G13__ __

G14 Cuándo usted tiene un problema que no puede manejar o resolver solo(a) con quién se pone en contacto? [con quien se comunica usted?] LLama a la persona nombrado arriba o a una agencia?
01 la persona nombrado arriba
02 una agencia
03 nadie
07 otro____________
08 no sabe
99 no quiso contestar G14__ __

(Si contestó 'una agencia', pregunte G15:)
G15 A cuál agencia llama usted? (escriba el nombre de la agencia)
________________________________ G15__ __

Ahora le voy a hacer unas preguntas a cerca de como se entera de que esta pasando en la comunidad.

G16 Lee usted el periódico? G16__ __
01 sí G16a. Si 'sí', lo lee en español, ingles o ambas?
02 no
01 español
02 ingles
03 ambas
99 no quiso contestar G16a__ __

G17 Ve usted la television? G17__ __
01 sí G17a. Si 'sí', la mira en español, ingles o ambas?
02 no
01 español
02 ingles
03 ambas
99 no quiso contestar G17a__ __

G18 Escucha usted la radio? G18__ __
01 sí G18a. Si 'sí', la escucha en español, ingles o ambas?
02 no
01 español
02 ingles
03 ambas
99 no quiso contestar G18a__ __

H. Apoyo social y familia

Regresemos a otra area. Ahora le quiero hacer algunas preguntas sobre como pasa usted su tiempo, de cuánto contacto tiene con familiares y con otras personas y grupos.

H1. Hay tiempos cuándo usted se siente aislado(a) y solo(a) aqui?
01 no, nunca
02 sí, un poco
03 sí, la mayoria del tiempo
04 sí, todo el tiempo
08 no sabe
99 no quiso contestar H1__ __

H2. Cada cuánto tiempo visita a cualquier vecino, ya sea en sus casas o en la casa de usted? Cree que por lo menos una vez por semana, por lo menos una vez al mes, menos de una vez al mes, o nunca?

01 una vez a la semana
02 una vez al mes
03 menos de una vez al mes
04 nunca
08 no sabe
99 no quiso contestar

H2__ __

H3. Cada cuánto tiempo se reune con amistades o parientes-- Quiero decir para salir juntos o visitar en ambas casa? Cree que por lo menos una vez por semana, por lo menos una vez al mes, menos de una vez al mes, o nunca?

01 una vez a la semana
02 una vez al mes
03 menos de una vez al mes
04 nunca
08 no sabe
99 no quiso contestar

H3__ __

H4 Cada cuánto va a la iglesia o servicios religiosos? Cree que por lo menos una vez por semana, por lo menos una vez al mes, menos de una vez al mes, o nunca?

01 una vez a la semana
02 una vez al mes
03 menos de una vez al mes
04 nunca
08 no sabe
99 no quiso contestar

H4__ __

Tengo otra pregunta sobre usted y la religión.
H4a Usted cree que la fe le puede ayudar a la persona a sobrellevar o a tratar con los problemas de la vida?

01 sí, completamente
02 sí, un poco
03 no, no mucho
04 no, ni un poco
08 no sabe
99 no quiso contestar

H4a__ __

H5 Pertenece usted a algun club u organización como ser de iglesia, grupos para ancianos, grupos de fraternidad, u otros?

01 sí
02 no (salte a H7)
99 no quiso contestar

H5__ __

(Si contestó 'sí' a H5, pregunte:)
H6 De todo junto, cada cuánto tiempo va a reuniones de clubs u organizaciones a las pertenece? Cree que por lo menos una vez por semana, por lo menos una vez al mes, menos de una vez al mes, o nunca?

01 una vez a la semana
02 una vez al mes
03 menos de una vez al mes
04 nunca
07 Otro____________________
09 no aplica
08 no sabe
99 no quiso contestar

H6__ __

H7 En una semana típica, cuántas veces habla por telefono con miembros de su familia, amigos o vecinos? Cree que por lo menos una vez diario, una vez por semana, por lo menos una vez al mes, menos de una vez al mes, o nunca?

01 una vez diario
02 una vez por semana
03 una vez por mes
04 menos de una vez por mes
05 Nunca
08 no sabe
99 no quiso contestar

H7__ __

H8 Cada cuánto tiempo sale de la casa (o del apartamento)? Cree que cada d' dos o tres veces a la semana, una vez a la semana, o casi nunca?

01 cada dia
02 dos o tres veces por semana
03 una vez por semana
04 casi nunca (una vez al mes o menos)
05 nunca(si encerrado)
08 no sabe
99 no quiso contestar

H8__ __

I. SERVICIOS

I1 Mientras la gente envejece, algunos problemas se ponen mas serios que otros. Me podrá decir usted cuáles son los problemas mas grandes que le enfrentan a usted en su vida diaria?

[ENTREVISTADOR: ESTÉ LISTO PARA 3. ESCRIBA LAS RESPUESTAS]

I1__ __

1. ____ I1a__ __
2. ____ I1b__ __
3. ____ I1c__ __

00 Salir a lugares que necesita ir (falta de transportacion)
01 dinero para vivir
02 mala salud
03 soledad
04 miedo al crimen
05 mantener la casa/apartamento
06 andar dentro de la casa
07 OTRO
10 Cuidando si mismo
11 Vivir en mal barrio
12 problemas legales
13 problemas emocionales, personales
14 Abuso de alcohol o drogas
15 Empleo, falta de trabajo
16 problemas con la familia
17 Bienestar de la familia
08 No sabe
09 No aplica
99 no quiso contestar

I2. Puede pensar usted en como se puede aliviar estos problemas? Que tipo de servicios le ayudaria lo mas con aquellos? Puede ser servicios que existen o puede ser algo que usted a pensado.________________________

____
____ I2__ __

I.. Finalmente, Usted dijo que ha necesitado servicios y no los ha recibido. Cuáles son las razones principales por que no recibio este servicio?
(Si el respondente no entiende bien la pregunta, dele algunos ejemplos de la lista que viene abajo. Escriba hasta tres respuestas) I3__ __

1.____ I3a__ __
2.____ I3b__ __
3.____ I3c__ __

01 no hay manera de saber sobre los servicios
02 servicios no existen
03 muy caro
04 muy lejos
05 la gente que proveen los servicios son torpes y no ayuda
06 es dificil comunicarse y hablar con la gente proveindo los servicios
10 yo crei que los servicios no me iban a ayudar
11 estuve un poco avergonzado de depender en otra gente
12 me siento incomodo cuando voy a la agencia
13 no quiero acudir a los servicios ofrecidos por miedo que perjudicaria el progreso de mis papeles
08 no sabe
99 no quiso contestar

I4. Ahora le voy a nombrar algunas agencias en el área que ofrecen servicios a la gente hispana. Me gustaría saber si usted se había oido de ellas, y si 'sí', si se ha ido a ellas para recibir los servicios?
(Lea la lista. Marque 'sí' o 'no' para cada agencia)

--Ha oido de tal agencia?				Ha ido alla para los servicios?		
	Sí	No	/	Sí	No	
a. Centro Cultural	01	02	/	01	02	I4a__ __/__ __
b. La clinica de Virginia Garcia	01	02	/	01	02	I4b__ __/__ __
c. El hospital de St. Vicente	01	02	/	01	02	I4c__ __/__ __
d. St. Alejandro (iglesia)	01	02	/	01	02	I4d__ __/__ __
e. Asociacion de Trabajadores Rurales	01	02	/	01	02	I4e__ __/__ __
f. Servicios Legales de Oregon	01	02	/	01	02	I4f__ __/__ __
g. Corporacion de Desarrollo Humano de Oregon(OHDC)	01	02	/	01	02	I4g__ __/__ __
h. El Centro Petra Perez (antes)	01	02	/	01	02	I4h__ __/__ __
i. Otros Centro para ancianos	01	02	/	01	02	I4i__ __/__ __
j.Agencia de Accion del condado de Washington (WCCCAO/ antes CAPP)	01	02	/	01	02	I4j__ __/__ __
k.Adult and Familia Services(food stamps)	01	02	/	01	02	I4k__ __/__ __
l.Ayuda	01	02	/	01	02	I4l__ __/__ __
m.Trimet	01	02	/	01	02	I4m__ __/__ __
n.Broadway Transportacion (bussesito)	01	02	/	01	02	I4n__ __/__ __
o.Housing Authority	01	02	/	01	02	I4o__ __/__ __
p.Servicio de consejar para immigracion (Margaret Godfried/ St. Alejandro)	01	02	/	01	02	I4p__ __/__ __
q.Otro______________________________	01	02	/	01	02	I4q__ __/__ __

Ahora me gustaría hacerle algunas preguntas de algunas ideas para servicios que hemos pensado para ustedes. Quiero saber como le parecen a usted.

I5 Primero, tendría interes usted en un programa que llevaría comida caliente a su casa?

01 Sí (salte a I7) 08 no sabe
02 No 99 no quiso contestar I5__ __

I6 Qué es la principal razón por qué no tendría interes en tal programa?
____
____ I6__ __

I7 Si se ofrecería dar comidas para grupos de personas de edad mayor hispana, tendria usted interes en tal program?

01 Sí 08 no sabe
02 No (salte a I9) 99 no quiso contestar I7__ __

(Si respondio 'sí', pregunte I8:)
I8 En cuál sitio se sentiría más a gusto usted: en una casa privada, en un restaurante, en un centro para todo la comunidad, en un centro no mas para la gente mayor, una iglesia, o donde?____________________________

01 casa privada 08 no sabe
02 restaurante 09 no aplica
03 centro del la comunidad para todos edades
04 centro para la gente mayor no mas 07 otro
05 iglesia 99 no quiso contestar I8__ __

(Si contestó 'no' o 'no sabe', pregunte I9:)
I9 Cuál es la principal razón por que no tendría interes en tal programa?
____
____ I9__ __

I10 Tendría interes usted en ir a un centro especificamente para la gente mayor hispana?
01 sí (salte a I12) 08 no sabe
02 no 99 no quiso contestar I10___ ___

I11 Cuál es la principal razón por qué no tendría interes en tal sitio?
____
____ I11___ ___

I12 Tiene usted algun interes o pasatiempo que le gusta hacer o que hacía antes?
01 sí 08 no sabe
02 no 99 no quiso contestar I12___ ___

(Si contestó 'sí', pregunte I13:)
I13 Qué tipo de pasatiempos o interes es? (Escriba que dice hasta 3. Lea la lista si respondente no entiende la pregunta) I13___ ___
1.____________________________________ I13a___ ___
2.____________________________________ I13b___ ___
3.____________________________________ I13c___ ___
01 Coser/apunteria/tejer 07 Otro
02 Cuidando su jardin, sus matas 08 No sabe
03 Placticar con personas 09 no aplica
04 Carpinteria 99 No quiso contestar
05 Leer
06 Cocinar

(pregunte si respondió que tendría interes en un centro)
I14 Qué tipo de actividades deben pasar en un centro para gente mayor hispana? (si respondente no sabe que quiere decir, preguntele como le parece ARTESANIA, CLASES DE COSER, COCINAR, PINTAR, PASAR EL TIEMPO NO MAS,..)____________________________________
____
____ I14___ ___

I15 A usted le interesaría trabajar como un voluntario en algun sitio?
01 sí 08 no sabe
02 no (salte a I18) 99 no quiso contestar I15___ ___

I16 Tiene usted algunas ideas en qué tipo de trabajo le gustaría hacer como un voluntario?____________________________________
____I16___ ___

I17 Le interesaría ser un voluntario en una pre-escuela enseñando los niños como era la vida que usted conocía cuando era joven?
01 sí (salte a I19) 08 no sabe
02 no 99 no quiso contestar I17___ ___

I18 Cuál es la principal razón que no tendría interes en trabajar como un voluntario?____________________________________
____
____ I18___ ___

J. Perspectiva Cultural

J1 A qué edad es una persona considerado MAYOR en la comunidad hispana?
(Escriba edad) __/__/__ J1__/__/__

J2 Cuáles son las cosas que contribuyen a determinar si una persona es MAYOR o no? (Indique uno. Si no es '01', '02' o '03', escriba el 'otro')

____
____
____

01 edad solo
02 salud
03 punto de vista en la vida
04 una combinacion
07 otro
08 no sabe
99 no quiso contestar

J2__ __

J3 Cómo se siente ahora que una persona de edad (o es una persona desabilitado)? Le gusta cómo le trata la gente o no le trata como esperaba? Esta muy satisfecho, algo satisfecho o nada satisfecho?

01 muy satisfecho
02 algo satisfecho
03 nada satisfecho
08 no sabe
99 no quiso contestar

J3__ __

J4 Cuando usted estaba creciendo, aprendió como la gente hispana se ayuda a la gente desamparada en su cultura, Me puede decir algo acerca de esto?(a cómo ayudan a las personas necesitadas)

____
____
____ J4__ __

(Pregunte del respondente que vino de otro pais, de otro parte de los Estados Unidos, o quien se identifica viniendo de otra cultura)

J5 Si usted estaria en el lugar de donde es o de donde eran sus papas, y su familia no le podia cuidar, que haria usted? A quien o a donde acudiria para ayuda?

____
____
____ J5__ __

J6 Ya hemos llegado a la última pregunta y se trata de su status aqui. Nos ayudaría si usted puede compartir conmigo como es su status aqui ahora. Yo sé que es un area sensible, pero a saberlo, nos ayudara desarrollar programas y servicios para usted. En corto, a saberlo hara el estudio mucho mas efectivo y practico. Le quiero asegurar de nuevo de que todo que usted me dice es confidencial y quedara entre nosotros.

[ENTREVISTADOR: Escriba la respuesta]________________________

Esta usted?

01 no tiene permiso
02 permiso turistico
03 permiso para trabajar
04 residente temporaneo
05 residente permanente
06 ciudadano de los USA
07 otro
08 no sabe
99 no quiso contestar

J6__ __

J7 Cuántos meses del año vive usted en este area?
ESCRIBA LA RESPUESTA:____________________ J7__ __

Muchisimas gracias por haber tomado su tiempo a participar en este estudio. Estamos muy agradecidos. Con su contribución, vamos a poder informarnos de las necesidades de la comunidad. La comunidad y, en particular, las de la gente hispana que sea mayor o desabilitada. Con esta información podremos mejorar los servicios que se ofrece ahora y desarrollar programas nuevos.

A la: Agencia que organiza los servicios a los ancianos en el condado de Washington

Me gustaria saber mas de los siguientes servicios:

(Marque los servicios en los cuales esta interesado(a))

DIETA Y SALUD

1.Comidas mandadas a casa
2.Comidas para grupos de personas
3.Estampillas para comida
4.Consejos sobre la salud
5.Una persona a ayudar le con la comida
6.Clinica para el salud
7.Alguien a visitarle para platicar
8.Aseguranza por llamada
9.Alguien a cuidarle durante el dia
10.Informacion de aseguranza de salud

ALOJAMIENTO

11.Ayuda con la renta
12.Alojamiento de bajo ingreso
13.Asistencia para cambiar casa
14.Servicio de ayuda con el trabajo de la casa
15.Ayuda en hacer los arreglos de la casa
16.Reparos de la casa/Energia
17.Casa en caso de emergencia
18.Casa para gente mayor

EMPLEO Y ACTIVIDADES

19. Servicios para buscar empleo
20.Oportunidades para ser un voluntario
21.Educacion/clases para adultos
22.Programa de diversion
23.Centro de ancianos

OTRO

24.Servicios legales
25.Educacion para el consumidor
26.Asistencia financial
27.Ayuda con manejar su dinero

Haga el favor de tener una trabajador de la comunidad:

______ visitar me en mi casa
______ telefonearme a mi casa
______ mandarme tal informacion

NOMBRE DE PERSONA:______________________________
DIRECCION:______________________________
(numero de casa y calle)
____
(cuidad, estado y codigo)
NUMERO DE TELEFONO:______________________________

EVALUACIÓN DEL ENTREVISTADOR Tiempo de terminar:__________

La evaluación del entrevistador(a) debe ser llenada al final de la encuesta mientras todo esté fresco en la mente, pero no haga preguntas al respondente.

1.A usted le respondente le parecía:
- 01 muy colaborador
- 02 algo colaborador
- 03 sin colaboracion
- 04 no pudo determinar

EV1__ __

2. Identifique las preguntas que le causaron problemas? (por ejemplo, que no eran entendidas o que no quiso contestar. Ponga el numero y pagina)

__ ____

____

____

____

3. Usted se siente que la información que le dio el respondente fue:
- 01 completamente confiables
- 02 bastante confiables
- 03 confiables en algunas cuantas
- 04 completamente inconfiable

EV3__ __

WASHINGTON
COUNTY,
OREGON

Current needs of the

HISPANIC ELDERS' PROJECT

of the Washington County Agency on Aging, in cooperation with the University of Portland

January, 1990

- *Two years of work have been dedicated toward a search for model programs that effectively reach rural, older farmworker populations with information and services available to the general senior community through the aging services system.*

  None have been found.

  With resources acquired through the VISTA program, an extensive survey has been conducted in Washington County of older Hispanics.

- *With respect and sensitivity given to the unique cultural qualities of this population and in light of the survey results which document extensive poverty, isolation, health problems, language and literacy barriers and premature aging and death, we seek the following:*

  1. *A wholistic and culturally appropriate approach to the delivery of all aging services initiated with this population.*
  2. *The freedom to adapt delivery and communication strategies in mid-course, based on the effectiveness that results from a variety of approaches at the beginning of the project, in consultation with the funding source(s).*
  3. *A team of trained "promotores",designed to augment more traditional communication and information methods such as radio, group events and agency outreach.*
  4. *Increased translation resources placed in rural, easily-accessed locations in order to provide the essential link to available state and federal entitlement assistance to the Hispanic elder population.*

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5. *Sufficient funding to create radio and video "novellas", (a familiar and most popular method of fostering awareness of unfamiliar issues or subject matters among Hispanics), in order to effectively confront the barrier of illiteracy, as we attempt to introduce available services and opportunities to this population.*
6. *Training and capacity-building for the host of existing formal and informal Hispanic organizations which currently do not deal with older Hispanics, but which do so with their younger family members.*
7. *An evaluation and project dissemination component which ensures effectiveness of strategies employed and which publicizes the gains made to other areas of Oregon and the U.S. which currently lack a way to serve this population with any degree of success.*

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